

JPRS 73897

24 July 1979

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 1999

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Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available from Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		1. REPORT NO. JPRS 73897	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
4. Title and Subtitle NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT, No. 1999			5. Report Date 24 July 1979	
7. Author(s)			6.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201			8. Performing Organization Rept. No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above			10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
			11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No. (C) (G)	
			13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
			14.	
15. Supplementary Notes				
16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words) This serial report contains information on socioeconomic, government, political, and technical developments in the countries of the Near East and North Africa.				
17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors				
Political Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-Arab Affairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Libya	<input type="checkbox"/> Sultanate of Oman	
Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/> North African Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauritania	<input type="checkbox"/> Syria	
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan	<input type="checkbox"/> Morocco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tunisia	
Culture (Social Sciences)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algeria	<input type="checkbox"/> People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Arab Emirates	
Ethnology	<input type="checkbox"/> Bahrain	<input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Western Sahara	
Geography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Egypt	<input type="checkbox"/> Qatar	<input type="checkbox"/> Yemen Arab Republic	
Techological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iran	<input type="checkbox"/> Saudi Arabia		
Military Sciences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iraq	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish North Africa		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Israel	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudan		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jordan			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kuwait			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lebanon			
b. Identifiers/Open Ended Terms				
c. COSATI Field/Group 5D, 5C, 5K, 15				
18. Availability Statement Unlimited Availability Sold by NTIS Springfield, Virginia 22161		19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED		21. No. of Pages 153
		20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED		22. Price

24 July 1979

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 1999

CONTENTS

PAGE

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab Summit, Unity Urged for Countering American Pressure (Fahd Al-Nasir; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 27 May 79)	1
Return to Islamic Law, Rejection of Al-Azhar Statement Urged (Muhammad Ra'if al-Badawi; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 26 May 79) ..	6
PLO Official Discusses Dialogue With United States Oil, Arab Summit (Faruq Qaddumi Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 5 Jun 79) ...	11
United States Said Planning Military Invasion of Oil Sources (Fu'ad Matar; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 26 May 79)	15

ALGERIA

Briefs

Algerian-Hungarian Cooperation	19
FLN Official in Africa	19

EGYPT

Intricacies of Self-Rule Negotiations Explored (Mazin Mustafa; AL-HAWADITH, 8 Jun 79)	20
Arab Attacks Against Egyptian People Denounced as Harmful (Jalal Kishshik; AL-HAWADITH, 8 Jun 79)	25
Soviets Told Egypt Is Better Friend Than Rejectionists (Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah; ROSE AL-YUSUF, 28 May 79) ..	28

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Possibility of Begin's Resignation Over Self-Rule Issue Examined (Nash'at al-Taghlibi; AL-HAWADITH, 8 Jun 79)	35
State Apparatus Reorganization Under Study (Muhammad al-Shamma'; AL-AKHBAR, 3 Jun 79)	39
Recommendations Made on Growing, Marketing Cotton (Hasan Sallumah; AL-AHRAM, 30 May 79)	41
Briefs Production Projects	42

IRAN

Baghdad Papers Take Dim View of Tehran's Arab Policy (BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 22 Jun 79)	43
Two Million Iranians on Narcotics (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, 11 Jun 79)	45

IRAQ

Barre's Visit: Franco-Iraqi Relations Are Sound (LE MONDE, 9 Jul 79)	48
Direct Implementation of Oil Projects (BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 21 Jun 79)	50
Briefs Civil Aviation Committee	54
Yugoslav Aid for Radio	54
Re-Exported Israeli Products	54
Response to U.S. Threats	54
Irrigation Project in South	55
Communist Party Statement	56

ISRAEL

Legality of Taking Private Arab Land at Alon Moreh Questioned (HA'ARETZ, 8 Jun 79)	57
Question of Autonomy for West Bank Arabs Discussed (HA'ARETZ, 8 Jun 79)	62
'POST' Poll: Weisman Favored to Succeed Begin (Mark Segal; POST, 11 Jul 79)	67

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Opinion Poll Conducted on Autonomy Talks (ITIM, 9 Jul 79)	69
Mishandling of Top Secret Documents Threat to Security (Ze'ev Shif; HA'ARETZ, 25 Jun 79)	70
Opposing Views on Settlements, Security Aired (Ze'ev Shif; HA'ARETZ, 24 Jun 79)	73
Weapons Lost, Stolen by Soldiers Said Serious Problem (MA'ARIV, 20 Jun 79)	76
Briefs	
Security for Settlements	78
Minister on Defense Zones	78
Mexican Minister on Oil Issue	78
Increase in Jordan Valley Settlements	79

JORDAN

Islamic Symposium To Discuss Jerusalem Issue (AL-DUSTUR, 13 Jun 79)	80
Minister of State Condemns Israeli-Egyptian Peace Procedures (AL-RA'Y, 11 May 79)	86
Chef De Cabinet Condemns Israeli-Egyptian Peace Procedures (al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid Interview; AL-RA'Y, 13 May 79) ..	92
Cement Industries Company Profits Detailed (AL-RA'Y, 13 May 79)	97
Briefs	
Inflation Rate Decreased	98

LEBANON

National Movement Attacks Plan To Create Sectarian 'Ghettos' (AL-NAHAR, 5 Jun 79)	99
Graduation for SSNP Militia Celebrated (Sa'id Ma'ala; AL-NAHAR, 14 May 79)	102
Briefs	
Jibril Distrusts Dialogue Appeal	104
Guardians of the Cedars	104

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
LIBYA	
Free Officers Issue Declaration, Resolutions (AL-SHURA, May 79)	105
SYRIA	
Egyptian Periodical Deplores Anti-Islam Campaign in Syria ('Abd al-Halim 'uways; AL-DA'WAH, Jun 79)	107
Rural Development Plan To Distribute Enterprises in the Country- side (AL-THAWRAH, 22 May 79)	113
Government Agency Criticized for Non-Payment of Land Seized (Samih Abu Tak; AL-BA'TH, 3, 13 May 79)	115
Owners' Compensation Long Delayed Government Official's Response	
Road Detour Constructed To Avoid Lebanese Territory (AL-THAWRAH, 16 May 79)	121
Eleven Talabaniists Reportedly Returned to Syria (HURRIYET, 17 Jun 79)	123
Water Projects, Schools, Roads Funded for Tartus Province (AL-THAWRAH, 16, 22 May 79)	124
28 Water Projects 65 Schools Constructed	
Syrian Students Do Well Under Syrian-Romanian Cultural Exchange (Salim Na'amah; AL-THAWRAH, 15 May 79)	126
Briefs	
Foreign Purchases of Syrian Cotton	129
Summer Camp for Ba'th Vanguard	129
TUNISIA	
Charges, Against Two Newspapers Upheld in Court (AL-RA'Y, 24 May 79)	130
Charged With Slander Charges of Slander Refuted New Press Law Demanded, Editorial	

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Prime Minister Criticized, Economic Policy Debate Demanded
(AL-RA'Y, 24 May) 139

Prison Conditions of Union Activists Deplored
(AL-RA'Y, 24 May 79) 141

Briefs

Telegram on Prisoners 143

Loan From Japan 143

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Reaction To Iranian Official's Visit Said Favorable
('Ali Hashim; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 11-17
Jun 79) 144

ARAB SUMMIT, UNITY URGED FOR COUNTERING AMERICAN PRESSURE

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 May 79 p 9

[Article by Fahd Al-Nasir: "The Proposed Arab Summit: Between the Liberation Strategy and the Urgent Interim Tasks"]

[Text] After all that has happened—and still does—along the front of the imperialist-Zionist-Sadatist pact in the region and after the unfolding of all the dimensions of the plot to liquidate the Palestine question through the implementation of the Camp David accords and the separate peace treaty between the Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy—after all that, it seems very strange that the 10th Arab summit has not been convened to chart out a plan for a unified, overall confrontation of the danger that besets the destiny of the Arab nation. The resolutions adopted by the Baghdad summit and the conference of the Arab foreign, economy and finance ministers are no more than negative reactions representing only one aspect of the confrontational stance, namely, the rejection of the treaty of humiliation and capitulation and punishment of the traitorous regime involved in it. The positive aspect of the Arab confrontation of the treaty, its dangers and the general Arab situation which has spawned that treaty has been strangely neglected. What scattered talk there is here and there about this subject—both on the official and public levels—is little more than daydreaming and wishful thinking rather than serious talk which has the potential to develop into regional or pan-Arab actions. This is because such talk lacks both the will and the unanimity as it lacks energies and capabilities which can be mobilized and sacrificed with no regard for loss or gain. Since the call for a summit aims at a departure from the negative state of rejection in which we have been living ever since the "believer" president undertook his initiative and at drawing up a strategy of positive action designed to thwart all the results of the conspiracy, it should receive quick response from all the Arab regimes which had adopted the Baghdad resolutions. But if, as usual, or as is commonly known about Arab conferences in general, the aim was to distract the Arab peoples with summit conferences and to adopt resolutions that are either unbinding or unenforceable, then the call for a summit becomes a means of escaping national responsibilities and throwing the blame on others, or it becomes a means of wasting time in order to slip through previously designed plans. As such, the call is rejected so that this nation would not continue to live in an endless, vicious circle.

This should not be taken as a belittlement of the present call for a summit conference or of the advocates of such a call. Their sincerity must be assumed, especially in the face of the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught which is directed against all of us indiscriminately. Indeed, the onslaught is now directed at parties that were previously not among its targets. There are several reasons for that development, primarily that the rules of the game in the region are all jumbled up nowadays, that the concept of rejection and militancy has now acquired a broader context and has become more defined and specific as its leadership moved on to parties that were previously known as moderate and soft. Or at least this is how the United States perceives things to be at present.

This is why we feel it is important and necessary to convene an Arab summit. The United States is trying to re-establish the old rules of the game. In so doing, it is banking on its old relationships and the various influences it yields. It is now pushing hard in that direction. This pressure should not be allowed to have a detrimental effect on Arab consensus and subsequently on the issues that are linked to our destiny. What is needed instead is a counterpressure. Such a counterpressure was referred to by Senator Harry Byrd, member of the United States Senate Armed Services Committee, in his report to the committee about his visit to the area last April, when he talked about the tendency of certain states in the area to use the economic trump card in order to obtain concessions toward an overall settlement in the Middle East.

The Arab Summit American Initiatives

A unified Arab position is needed to deal with American pressures which are being especially applied to Arab oil-producing states with the aim of softening up their stand on the separate peace treaty and the Sadat regime. Such a unified action is required because of the seriousness of American pressures, on the one hand, and because they cannot be dealt with through individual actions or policies—especially since those pressures are exploiting the area's need for stability as well as the sensitivities to what is called the communist menace.

The proposed summit conference is called upon to define very clearly the real enemies of the Arab nation in this present phase and to differentiate between actual danger and potential or remote danger in the context of a general strategy. Within this strategy, too, a plan should be drawn up to maintain current alliances and explore alliances that can be made with friendly states or with states that are not perceived to be friendly but that can be neutralized for the time being if friendship cannot be established with them and if it is not possible at present to reach an understanding with them over interim common interests. These are, of course, self-evident points which are usually contained in any serious military or peace strategy.

We believe that the so-called American initiatives which began to be cited at the outset of the second phase of the Egyptian-Israeli capitulation negotiations aim at the same goals which pressures have probably failed to

achieve. According to recent reports, American President Carter will discuss with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev when they meet in Vienna in the middle of next month a new American initiative to bring about a comprehensive and peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. The reports also said that the American administration intends to consult with several parties in the area about the new initiative, and that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has decided to expand the scope of his forthcoming visit to the Middle East to include a number of Arab states if the United States received positive responses to the new American concept of a settlement.

Talking about initiatives, we should mention the renewed call to a Geneva conference which came in the joint statement issued at the end of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit late last month. The call received a positive response from Ezer Weizman, the enemy's minister of defense, who said that Sadat and Begin have promised to study it. The call received mixed and conflicting responses in the Arab world, with some capitals warmly welcoming it.

One can also include here the calls made here and there for new international peace initiatives "running parallel" to the so-called autonomy talks between Egypt, Israel and the United States. Strangely enough, a call to this effect was made recently by a senior official in an Arab state considered to be in the forefront of the Arab states which rejected the Camp David agreement and the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Whatever the aims behind such calls, an Arab summit should be held at the soonest time possible to put an end to contradictory Arab positions on such calls and examine their dimensions and consequences so as to hammer out a common Arab position which would prevent our slipping into enemy plots designed to break the Arab consensus in support of the Baghdad summit resolutions and of undermining the humiliating treaty. Any close examination of present or anticipated American plans and initiatives will certainly lead to the following objective facts:

One--The United States wants to persuade the various states of the region of the merits of the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. This might be done through making some cosmetic improvements in it that would not, however, alter the capitulationist nature of its substance, with the aim of bringing more Arab parties into the negotiations to complete the humiliating settlement.

Two--The United States does not want to carry the economic burdens placed on its shoulders by the Arab isolation of Egypt. Instead, it wants to shift this burden onto the oil-rich Arab states, fully or partially, if it can. The clamor raised about the aircraft deal and the payment for those aircraft is the best proof of that.

Three--Any initiative by Washington while the United States continues to sponsor the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the Camp David accords cannot be but an extension of the Sadatist capitulationist course, on the Arab and Palestinian levels. Such an initiative would thus represent a different approach, but it would be seeking the same Zionist-imperialist objectives.

Four--In the absence of inter-Arab planning and coordination, the introduction of any initiatives aims at aborting any possibility of an Arab consensus behind a common strategy, and might even create disagreements within and rock the cohesion of the Arab camp which rejects capitulation.

Five--Any negotiation with the Zionist enemy, directly or via the United States, under the present international and regional balances of power cannot but result in more Arab concessions of land and rights, and can only lead us in the direction of the Camp David accords and the treaty. Therefore, a change in the balance of power in the area should precede any peace moves made with the Zionist enemy.

Six--Any apparent move made by the United States in the direction of what it calls an overall settlement of the crisis is only meant as a maneuver to buy time and preserve the special relations it has with various states in the region for the longest time possible in order to safeguard the American interests in those states, especially its oil interests for which the United States now has a dire need in view of the present energy crisis.

There is no doubt that such a situation requires the concerned Arab states to display the greatest extent of political sophistication and shrewdness and effective coordination so that they may be able to harness the situation to their advantage and that of the common national cause, carefully and efficiently. This cannot be done, however, except within the context of an overall strategy drawn up by the [proposed] Arab summit. If successful, this strategy can change the regional and international balance of power in favor of a just and comprehensive settlement or in favor of a solution that would guarantee the retrieval of all Arab rights.

The Arab Summit and Fulfillment of Commitments

While the convening of an Arab summit is necessary for the sake of charting out an overall strategy to confront the regional and international situation which would be engendered by the carrying out of the separate peace treaty, it is also necessary in order to examine the results already achieved in the way of implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions and to correct the shortcomings disclosed by the application of the resolutions, especially those resolutions dealing with the boycotting of the Egyptian regime in various fields. In this regard, observers raise important questions for which the Arab summit should find candid answers and devise basic solutions. These questions include the following:

One--What is the position on the Arab regimes which support and defend the Egyptian-Israeli treaty while claiming at the same time support for the Arab consensus represented by the resolutions of the Baghdad summit. Why should not the Arab boycott include those regimes? The Arab public has been unable to explain a recent strange phenomenon--the phenomenon of the close cooperation and relations which have developed between two Arab states--one a most militant opponent of the Egyptian regime, the other a strong and close supporter of the same regime. The proposed Arab summit should put an end to this glaring contradiction in Arab politics.

Two—Have the concerned Arab states fulfilled their financial obligations to the support of the northern and eastern fronts and the Palestine Liberation Organization? The failure of any state to fulfill such obligations can only mean one thing: that this state is indirectly supporting the Sadat regime and the designs he represents. This is something which should not be tolerated whatever the justifications may be.

Three—Why is not the economic boycott being universally applied against the Egyptian regime? And why is that regime being allowed to confiscate Arab funds deposited in the Arab League and its various agencies? What is the Arab attitude toward this overt robbery? Why are not Arab deposits and private and public capital withdrawn from Egypt? And why is not economic and trade dealing with the Egyptian regime suspended entirely after it opened its borders and skies with the Zionist enemy?

It can be clearly seen from all the above that the holding of a new Arab summit is a pressing national need in the present Arab circumstances. The main task of the proposed conference should be that of preparing for the liberation of Arab lands and restoration of the full national rights of the Palestinian people by means of a unified, comprehensive and long-term strategy. As for the immediate tasks of the conference, the more salient among them have already been mentioned and covered in the preceding paragraphs. They may not, however, be the most important tasks.

Once again, we hope that the conference, should it materialize, will not be a ploy to evade national duties and responsibilities or to distract the Arab people and buy more time for hostile designs.

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CSO: 4802

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

RETURN TO ISLAMIC LAW, REJECTION OF AL-AZHAR STATEMENT URGED

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 May 79 p 5

[Article by Muhammad Ra'if al-Badawi: "Al-Azhar's Statement Under the Scrutiny of Shari'ah; Dr Khalid al-Madkur: Al-Azhar Should Be Separated From the State To Prevent It From Being Influenced by the Ruler's Policy; Dr Tayis 'Abdullah al-Jamili: The Statement by al-Azhar's 'Cheer Leaders' Is False and Falsifies Reality"]

[Text] The statement in which the rector of al-Azhar tried to confer legitimacy on the capitulationist treaty the leader of the Egyptian regime had signed with the Zionist regime, and in which he also went so far as to liken the treaty to the al-Hudaybiyyah peace concluded by the good prophet [Muhammad]--that statement has had repercussions in public and religious circles in view of its falsification of religion, Islamic law and truth. To set the record straight about the position of religion and Islamic law on the peace treaty with the Zionist enemy and to refute the allegations made by the statement, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM talked to Dr Khalid al-Madkur, who teaches at the Islamic Law and Studies center at Kuwait University, and Shaykh Tayis 'Abdullah al-Jamili. Here is what they had to say about the statement put out by al-Azhar:

Dr Khalid al-Madkur: Return to Islamic Law

Dr Khalid al-Madkur, a professor at the Islamic Law and Studies, had this to say: First of all, and before we start talking about this or that, we must talk about more important matters. These are that the present conditions in which Muslims live--conditions typified by political, economic and social backwardness--require Muslims to return to Islamic law in order to be able to rectify the foresakenness they had demonstrated as a result of the three abovementioned conditions by following the path of God Almighty and His prophet--God bless him and grant him salvation--so that Islam and Muslims may retrieve their strength and be in a position of strength and legitimate predominance, as Islam and not the falsified al-Azhar statement would want it to be, from which they can impose their views. When Muslims have fulfilled the dictates of Islam in all three areas--political, economic and social affairs--then can the Muslim ruler, who qualifies under Islamic law and who applies this law in his private and public life, choose peace rather than war in accordance with his determination of what serves Muslim interests best.

What we have now, however, is vituperations, hypocrisy and attempts to draw examples from the time of the prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, without regard to the vast difference between the time of the good prophet, God bless him, and our present state of slackness. We should not invent lies about the prophet, God bless him, because he has never ordered us to capitulate to an enemy that has usurped our land, and because God has damned usurpers in His book, nor should we liken the alleged peace to the al-Hudaybiyyah peace.

Dr Al-Madhkur went on to say: Let us now look at the al-Azhar statement. It says: "Al-Azhar, speaking for all its organizations, today presents to the Islamic world a testimonial based on Islamic law concerning the references made by certain circles about the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Egypt is a Muslim country and it is the duty of its guardian to see to its protection and safety. If he determined that confronting or pacifying the enemy is in the interest of Muslims, he is entitled to choose whichever course he sees most conducive to Muslim interests, because he is the one who has the right to determine matters of peace or war in accordance with Muslim interests, since he is the person who is most knowledgeable about his subjects and the best qualified to know their strengths and weaknesses and, therefore, to act within the bounds of what God Almighty and his prophet, God bless him, have dictated. The Koran has ordered us to make peace with the enemy if the imam (read al-Sadat) determined that it is in the interest of Muslims. As an example of the admissibility of peace with the enemy--when it serves the interests of Muslims--the imams cited the al-Hudaybiyyah peace in which the prophet, God bless him, made peace with the enemy while he was "at the head of a strong and victorious army with which he could have imposed his views." The ulema at al-Azhar also say that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is permissible under Islamic law, because it springs from "strength" as did the al-Hudaybiyyah peace.

Regardless of the arguments made in the al-Azhar statement, and assuming that the leaders of the Arab and Islamic world are "Muslims" in every sense of the word, is our present situation such that we are at the head of "a strong and victorious army" through which we can impose our views? I believe that our situation belies that premise. We are a powerless nation, now pulled by the East, now by the West. The two sides impose their views on us. We are, therefore, incapable of making peace with an enemy, be it Israel or some other enemy, from a situation of strength. The only thing which we can conclude when we are in a situation such as ours would be a capitulation, not peace.

Dr Khalid cited the following example to illustrate his point: What if a thief broke into your house in broad daylight, forcibly kicked you out of your house, threw your belongings out then came to you after a period of time and said to you: I am ready to give you back half of your house and keep the other half for myself--would you accept that? Would you agree to do what he says? Logic and reality tell you no, you cannot accept that. How can we share our property, that is to say usurped Palestine, with the enemy? The ulema of al-Azhar are responsible before God for such religious opinions which they impart liberally to the ruler with the aim of pleasing him, not God.

We should not overlook or disregard the standing of al-Azhar and its history which is replete with great stands all deriving from God's laws. What we now have, however, is the opposite of that, for al-Azhar's character is being marred and deformed due to the presence of weak and infirm people whose confidence in God is weak. If al-Azhar is to regain its stature and prestige, it should be managed by people who fear God and can say the truth without fear of recrimination. To this we can add that al-Azhar has always been associated with strong men and that there should be a separation between al-Azhar and the state within which al-Azhar functions so that it would not be influenced by the ruler's policies, subsequently abandoning its responsibility as an interpreter of Islamic law for fear of the ruler's power and authority.

The Opinion of Islamic Law on al-Sadat's Peace

Shaykh Tayis 'Abdullah al-Jamili had this to say: The original concept is that the Islamic community is one with a mission, that its mission cannot be fulfilled except through jihad [holy struggle] which was dictated by God Almighty. One cannot disregard this original concept under any circumstances or for whatever reason. The treaty did not come as a total surprise to the Muslims, for it was preceded by a misleading media campaign which stripped the Islamic community of the most important cornerstones of jihad, dissolved its personality and confused it by jumbling concepts and ideas to thoroughly that it was reduced to a state of humiliation and folly in which it became incapable of telling friend from foe. This was followed by the implementation of the "Jewish protocols" [also known as the protocols of Zion] in the fashion planned by the protocols, namely, stripping the Islamic community of the mainstays of faith, quashing the spirit of sacrifice, and cultivating the tendency to complacency and the submission to passions and desires.

Strangely enough, it was al-Azhar which had taught us that jihad is a duty, and educated us about the rules and provisions of jihad. Its religious opinions forbidding peace and submission on the strength of the Koran and the Sunnah are there for all to see. They are based on God's own words, such as His saying: "Fight the pagans all together as they fight you all together," and "Fighting is prescribed for you and you dislike it," and "O you who believe, shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a grievous penalty? That you believe in Allah and His Apostle and that you strive your utmost in the cause of Allah with your property and your persons."

Discussing the Statement

Shaykh Tayis then turned to the statement issued by al-Azhar and said:

One--The statement refers to the ruler of Egypt as the imam of Muslims. We do not know whether our ulema are ignorant of the fact, or pretend to be so, that the imamate over Muslims cannot be assigned to a ruler who does not apply the laws of Islam. Have they weighed the rules, regulations, laws, domestic and foreign policies and all other activities conducted under the leadership of that ruler with the scale of Islam? And if they did, has the

scale established that he applies God's laws, hence his right to the title of imam of Muslims? We know, however, that the ruler in question is the imam of only a bunch of hypocrites and cheer leaders no matter who they are and what guise they use. The free men of Egypt do not recognize his imamate. Most members of the Egyptian people are Muslim free men.

Two--In their previous opinions, the ulema of al-Azhar cited God's saying, "So lose not heart, nor fall into despair, for you must gain mastery if you are true in faith," as a proof that a Muslim's strength is drawn from that of God and that God's victory is his victory and that, therefore, he should not accept humiliation. They also cited the following Koranic verse: "Be not weary and faint-hearted, crying for peace, when you should be uppermost, for Allah is with you and will never put you in loss for your good deeds." This statement, which cannot be glossed over by the allegations of the hypocrites, is a very clear forbiddance of the act of making a humiliating peace, let alone signing the humiliating treaty.

Three--Citing God's saying, "But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace and trust in Allah, for He is the one that heareth and knoweth all things," as a justification for the peace agreement with the Jews involves several errors. The first error is that the verse made it clear that the Muslim ruler should not [sic] respond to a persistent enemy who begs and pleads in humility to be left alone and to have his blood spared. Islam prescribes certain rules which apply to nations it seeks to conquer and bring into the Islamic faith. One such rule is that a nation facing the sword of Islam can ward off this sword by either converting Islam or paying a tribute. There is no other alternative. Consider then how this rule relates to the situation imposed on us by the capitulators. You will find that such rule is totally divorced from the situation we have at hand and, therefore, cannot be cited as a justification for it.

Four--The citation of the al-Hudaybiyyah peace and the treaties concluded by the Prophet, God bless him, actually prove the premise of those who oppose the treaty, not those who approve of it. How? A) The al-Hudaybiyah peace was made by the Prophet, God bless him, with [the tribe of] Quraysh when Quraysh had its own entity and was not usurping anyone's land, in accordance with international norms as we understand them now, but was in its own territory. The Prophet, God bless him, had invaded Quraysh on its own home grounds, and since his actions are all inspired by God, he saw fit and proper to conclude the treaty known as al-Hudaybiyah peace. One of the byproducts of that peace is that it freed the Prophet, God bless him, for the task of doing away with the Jews. Another byproduct of that treaty was that various Arab tribes adopted Islam. As for its most important strategic result, it was Quraysh's recognition of Islam's political power. And so let all rational people compare the treaty of humiliation and the al-Hudaybiyah peace, bearing in mind that the Jews did not own more than 6 percent of the land of Palestine before they usurped the rest of Palestine, which was Muslim lands. By negotiating and making peace with them we would be admitting and recognizing their usurpation of and aggression against Muslim lands and properties. This shows that the al-Hudaybiyyah peace cannot be used to justify the treaty

with Israel as "the cheer leaders" of al-Azhar are doing in order to justify the crime of their master. B) The treaties which the Prophet, God bless him, had concluded with the Jews came in three stages and three forms. They were all treaties which were determined by war and the elimination of the Jews. Therefore, those God-inspired actions by the Prophet, God bless him, should be an object lesson for his followers. The Prophet is somehow telling us that the Jews are God's worst people, that while he had exchanged pledges with them, trusted them and made peace with them, he received nothing in return except violation of the pledges, treachery and deception, that the nation of Islam should treat them only by the sword, and that whoever makes peace with the Jews and trusts their pledges would be belying God and His Prophet, God bless him.

Five--We should not pass judgement against the ruler of Egypt alone and show God's verdict against his actions without offering an alternative to such actions. For otherwise we would be upholding the rest of the Muslim rulers who pretended to be against the treaty with a clear conscience. If those who reject the treaty are sincere, they should change the pattern of their lives, be true in their return to God, atone for the things they had committed against Islam and apply God's law in their lives. Only then will we believe that they are real opponents of the treaty. It must be mentioned that the nation of Islam has witnessed worse traumas and predicaments than it is witnessing now. Strangely enough, any reading of our nation's history will show that the periods which preceded predicaments and setbacks have one thing in common: they are periods in which God and Islam were disregarded and neglected and in which complacency and slackness set in. Anyone who wishes to ascertain what I am saying has only to read the history of the period which preceded the Tatarian invasion which overran Baghdad and the Islamic world, or the period which preceded the Crusaders' invasion of the Islamic world, or the history of the present period. But we do not despair or give in, for our confidence in God is great. These may be ordeals which are meant to arouse us from our slumber and re-awaken us so that we may pick up our arms, which had been collecting dust, cleanse them and cleanse ourselves with them. If we were to fight, those who confront us would be fighting God. We will be blessed with the power and glory of God. Only then will the faithful rejoice, for their triumph will be the triumph of God who grants victory to whom He chooses.

9254

CSO: 4802

PLO OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DIALOGUE WITH UNITED STATES OIL, ARAB SUMMIT

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 Jun 79 p 3

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of PLO's Political Department, by 'Abdallah al-Qaq: "Chairman of PLO's Political Department to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: No Truth to Reports of Palestinian Attempt on King Husayn's Life; We are Ready To Enter Into Dialogue With America on Condition That It Recognize Organization; Soviet Union Will Use Veto If America Tries To Pass Capitulationist Agreement; Call for Summit Must Come from Somebody Other Than President Numayri"]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO's Political Department, has denied the reports about an attempt made by Palestinians to assassinate the Jordanian monarch, and has told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that these tendentious rumors are part of the distortion campaigns that seek to drag Jordan to the negotiations with Israel and to create a crack in our warm relations with Jordan, and that the Palestinians are totally innocent of such attempts.

Abu al-Lutf [Qaddumi] also said that the Liberation Organization is ready to conduct a dialogue with the United States on condition that the latter recognize the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, and that the talks be held openly, not secretly, and at the highest levels.

Abu al-Lutf asserted that the Soviet Union will exert maximum efforts to give more support to the Palestinian issue, and the Arab issue generally, and that it will use the veto if the United States tries to have the Security Council pass the Egyptian-Israeli capitulation treaty.

Abu al-Lutf also said that whoever calls for an Arab summit conference must be eager for Arab solidarity, and that the call for such a conference should come from somebody other than the Sudanese president, who accuses the Arab League of having collapsed.

He added that if asked to, the Liberation Organization will play a positive and prominent role to develop and improve the relations between Iraq and Iran in order to bolster good neighborly relations between them.

Suspect Attempts

Answering a question on some press reports that an attempt was made by the Palestinians to assassinate King Husayn, Qaddumi said: These reports are a part of the distortion campaigns and of the pressures exerted on King Husayn to drag him into negotiations with the Israeli enemy. Our relations with Jordan are good and strong, especially since the visit that brother Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chairman, and myself paid to Amman and during which we held talks with his majesty and with the Jordanian officials. We agreed in a joint statement on the need to coordinate the efforts inside the occupied territories. Our contacts continue so that we may serve the common interest.

He said that the Palestinians are totally innocent of such acts and that these reports seek to divide the Arab ranks and to harm Jordan, especially under this circumstance in which the United States is trying to apply pressure on Jordan and on some other Arab sides to drag them into future negotiations.

Open Dialogue With United States

[Question] Brother Abu al-Lutf, what about the possibility of holding dialogue with the United States, and is what Abu 'Ammar announced about the PLO's readiness to embark upon such a dialogue true?

[Answer] Abu 'Ammar was interviewed by an American journalist at the Political Department in Beirut. I was present during the interview. The discussion during the interview dealt with the aggressive policy adopted by the United States against the Palestinian aspirations. As evidence of the Palestinian goodwill toward the efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO has no objection to holding dialogue with the United States, provided that the latter recognize the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, and provided that the talks are open, and not secret, and held at the highest levels because, as I have said, we are ready to exert efforts for establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

Soviet Union and Position of Support

[Question] What about the relations with the Soviet Union? Do you think that it will use the veto to prevent passing the capitulationist treaty between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] The Soviet Union has assured us repeatedly of its support for the revolution, the PLO and for the Arab countries against the isolationist plots and deals made by the United States, in cooperation with Israel, against the organization. The Soviet Union has also assured us through a special envoy who visited Beirut recently and who met with brother Abu 'Ammar that it will exert utmost efforts to give more support for the Palestinian issue particularly and the Arab issue in general, and that it will not hesitate to use the veto if the United States endeavors to pass the capitulationist Washington treaty at the Security Council in any form whatsoever.

President Humeiri's Call Unacceptable

[Question] Sudanese President Ja'far Humeiri intends to call for an Arab summit conference; what is the PLO's position toward this call?

[Answer] Whoever calls for an Arab summit conference while accusing the Arab League of having collapsed at the same time cannot be eager for Arab solidarity. The call must come from somebody other than President Humeiri-- somebody who adopts as sound a position toward the Washington treaty and the Camp David accords as the one taken by the other Arab countries. In any case, I discussed with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the [Kuwaiti] deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, during our meeting today (yesterday) the holding of an Arab meeting to project our visualizations of the future common action. This meeting will be one of the issues presented to the Arab League session scheduled to be held in Tunis on the 27th of this month.

Qaddumi described his talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as positive and fraternal. He said that the position of Kuwait is firm and well-known and proceeds from absolute support for our national cause.

Situation in Lebanon and Solidarity of Joint Forces

Answering a question on the situation in southern Lebanon and on the continued Israeli aggressions against the south and against the Palestinian camps, Qaddumi said:

The PLO, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement adopt a common position of solidarity in the face of the Zionist attacks against the south. There is no doubt that what the fraternal Lebanese people in the south and the Palestinian people offer is the epitome of sacrifice. It is as if these two peoples alone shoulder the results of the Camp David accords and of the Washington treaty.

Self-Rule and Fate of Collaborators With Enemy

[Question] What is your comment on the current attempts to get Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the occupied territories to enter into suspect negotiations on self-rule?

[Answer] The PLO has declared its clear policy and has made it known that it will not hesitate to take the proper deterrent action against whoever betrays his homeland and plots against it. Our people inside the occupied territories have spoken clearly concerning whoever swerves from the Palestinian line and whoever tries to support self-rule or take part in its works. Our people at home are capable of taking disciplinary measures whoever permits himself to swerve from the revolutionary march of our struggling people.

Iraqi-Iranian Disagreement and PLO's Role

[Question] The Iranian-Iraqi relations are somewhat strained at present. In view of the good relations binding the PLO to both Iraq and Iran, are you going to endeavor to restore the relations between the two friendly countries to their previous condition?

[Answer] The PLO has been and is still ready to exert all its efforts and use all its experience to bolster good neighborly relations between the fraternal Arab and Islamic countries, especially between Iran and Iraq. We are ready, if asked, to offer all that is within our capacity to entrench this policy.

8494

CSO: 4802

UNITED STATES SAID PLANNING MILITARY INVASION OF OIL SOURCES

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 26 May 79 pp 22-23

[Article by Fu'ad Matar: "Before America Invades Oil Sources"]

[Text] The American hints, which do not lack emphasis, and warnings regarding U.S. intention to occupy the oil sources are increasing day after day.

At the outset, the hints were confined to statements published in the U.S. press and to pictures leaked by the intelligence agencies to more than one target. The issue then developed gradually, and we now hear clear statements on this matter from official authorities and sources. We also read that certain authorities in the United States are preparing studies and concluding from the likely outcome of an invasion of the oil sources.

These hints are no longer mere gossip or speculation, in the wake of the statements saying that the U.S. force prepare/ for the task of occupying the oil sources amounts to nearly 40,000 troops.

A few days ago, the United States made clear this premeditated intention through the person of Harold Brown, the secretary of defense. In view of what Brown has said, there is no place for wavering on this matter.

There are two phrases in the statements made by the U.S. secretary [of defense] on 19 May 1979 that require every Arab official to draw one or more lines under them.

The first phrase is: "I do not exclude the use of military force to defend our vital interests in the area. However, the determination of these interests must be done according to the criterion of certain events."

The second phrase is: "Our intervention will most likely be confined to supplying Israel with quantities [sic] of weapons and to sending military aircraft and vessels to the area.."

These two phrases emphasize that what has been published on the preparation of a military force has its foundation, and that what has been said about the U.S. intentions to occupy the oil sources also has its foundation and that

what has been reiterated about the studies prepared to fathom the possibilities of military intervention has more than one foundation.

It is evident that the United States has begun to think of occupying the oil sources as a result of the national awakening in the Arab area and of the growing convictions that the United States is responsible for the 5 June 1967 defeat. The U.S. thinking crystallized further with the growing current in the Palestinian resistance demanding that the United States be punished. There is no doubt that the success of the hand of the resistance in reaching targets in the heart of Europe turned the thinking into a working plan. The Iranian revolution, and before that the Soviet approach toward the oil sources, came to make the U.S. idea a goal that has gone beyond the planning stage.

It is likely that the United States would not have talked a lot about the idea had the Arab states blessed the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace. But what happened is that the overwhelming majority of the Arabs have displayed unprecedented solidarity against these accords. Even the states which the United States had assumed would bless the accords and the peace warmly have displayed their rejection. It is indubitable that the Saudi position, for example, is presently the focus of the apprehensions of the U.S. administration that is trying to extinguish the fires of his position and to contain the possibilities of a new change in its direction through escalated hints and threats, in addition to some campaigns by the U.S. information media such as the press, the radio stations and the television.

The U.S. inclination to interfere militarily has become serious. When Senator Joseph (Biden) says that he has received official reports that President Carter's administration is studying the possibility of forming a military force of 100,000 troops to help protect the U.S. interests abroad, including the Arab Gulf--when this senator says this, then it is necessary that the Arabs take the matter seriously. The senator is not declaring this for the first time so that we may consider his words mere speculation or words intended to spread a wave of intimidation in the hearts of the Arabs. The senator made his statements after a lot had been said about this intervention and after, it seems, the idea had ripened and lacked nothing but implementation.

Even though the U.S. State Department spokesman found nothing to say in comment on the senator's statement other than the words "there is a place in our policy for military presence," this comment is enough to ascertain that intervention is in the picture and that the military force is ready. It is worth noting here that it is a foregone conclusion that such a force was ready before hints about the idea of intervention were even made, because a major power like the United States cannot make hints on a notion such as military intervention and then start preparing the force that will carry out the intervention task. Such a force will not carry out an ordinary task. Moreover, the type of training required is not conventional, because the force will operate in deserts, in hot areas and among peoples that are supposed to be friendly.

Whether the U.S. military intervention in the Arab area, particularly in the Gulf, comes as direct intervention or through the use of Israel or of President al-Sadat's regime, it will be intervention, it will be military and it will be America.

What is the Arab position vis-avis this threat?

A Saudi position represented in statements made by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz to LE MONDE, the French paper, on 14 May 1979--statements to the effect that "we are always eager to have strong and good relations with the United States on the basis of mutual respect for any position taken by either of the two countries. The difference in viewpoints or in the political evaluation of positions should not be described as deterioration of relations. In our stance toward the peace issue, we have not sought to adopt a hostile position toward the United States or to undermine its interests."

It is obvious that through his statements, Prince Fahd is trying to tame the U.S. administration somewhat. It is as if he wants to tell this administration: Understanding is better than intervention. The merits of understanding is that it protects against the pitfalls of intervention. If the relationship is to continue to be good, then let the page of threats, warnings and insinuations of the use of force be turned over and be replaced by an understanding of the Saudi position, which is a part of the Arab position and which is an axiomatic position imposed by national, pan-Arab and religious sentiments.

An Iraqi position represented in Saddam Husayn's statements to a delegation of Syrian Journalists on 13 May 1979: "It is no longer possible for the Americans or for others to occupy the oil sources in order to return their relations with the oil producing countries to what they used to be 20 years ago, because there has been qualitative forward movement."

It is natural that the comment of the revolutionary Saddam Husayn would be characterized by a tone distinguished from that of Prince Fahd's conservative tone, in addition to the quality of the relations between each of them and the United States.

A Palestinian position was represented in Abu Iyad's statement at a press conference he held in Doha on 15 May 1979 during his visit to the State of Qatar when he said: "We consider the oil sources Arab interests, and we will not undermine the Arab oil when we attack the U.S. interests."

It is obvious that these statements by Abu Iyad, who is viewed by the West, as a result of major operations which he planned and which were implemented in the past, as the man who will one day destroy the oil wells--the U.S. force is intended to contain what the men whom Abu Iyad has prepared for this purpose may do--it is obvious that the statement of Abu Iyad, with which all the oil countries are satisfied, are intended mainly to reassure the Arab oil countries that couple his statements by expressing their hope that nothing will develop to call for direct U.S. intervention.

Abu Iyad settled the issue for the first time when he considered the oil wells "Arab interests." Because they are so, the Palestinian resistance has not touched them. The fact that Abu Iyad committed himself to this position while visiting an Arab oil country gives the issue an extremely important dimension.

But is this enough?

And are these positions all that the Arabs have to say and do vis-a-vis the U.S. preparation for intervention?

It is important that there be other means and positions, keeping in mind that there are some Arab officials who have told us that carrying out the intervention itself may be beneficial because it will show the United States in a light that will make certain Arab sides aware and sure of the truth of the U. S. position.

On this occasion, we wonder: What prevents calling the Security Council to hold an emergency session to discuss the U.S. threats and plans? Considering that such a meeting will undoubtedly be held after the intervention takes place, what prevents anticipating matters and calling the council to expose the intentions, if it is difficult to expose the plans? It may be said that such a thing cannot be done unless the intervention takes place. The answer to this is that after the intervention, matters will be so complicated that the call will be of no use at all.

Moreover, aren't Brown's statement, Senator Joseph (Biden's) statement, what the U.S. press, radio stations and television publish, as well as some reports, enough for a dossier that makes it sufficiently clear that President Carter's administration is guilty of the intention to interfere?

This is enough. What is more, enough of this delicate diplomacy with an administration that plans to invade the area to protect falsehood.

8494

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN-HUNGARIAN COOPERATION--Algiers, 11/7/79, (APS)--An agreement of jointly grouping [as received] between Algeria and Hungary was signed Wednesday morning at the seat of the Ministry of Housing, Town Planning and Construction. The agreement provides the realization of 2,550 houses with their immediate equipments in the wilayas (provinces) of Annaba and Guelma (east of Algeria). The ceremony of signing took place in presence of Mr Abdelmadjid Aouchiche, FLN CC member and minister of housing, town planning and construction and the ambassador of Hungary to Algiers. The agreement was signed, on the Algerian side, by Mr Hasnaoui, general manager of the enterprise of housing and public works of Annaba (east of Algeria), and on the Hungarian side, by Messrs Jozsef Merath, deputy director general of Nikex, and Szabo, general manager of Exemport. This agreement expresses the will of Algeria to strengthen its cooperation with socialist countries which accumulated a large experience in the field of construction. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 79 LD]

FLN OFFICIAL IN AFRICA--Algiers, 9/7/79 (APS)--Colonel Slimane Hoffman, FLN CC member, in charge of the party's external relations toured a part of Africa, paying visits to Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania. In Maputo, (capital of Mozambique), Mr. Hoffman was received by President Samora Machel with whom he discussed questions of mutual interest, notably concerning Africa. In Lusaka, (Zambia) Mr. Hoffman was received by President Kenneth Kaunda. Talks between the two men centred on austral Africa, particularly the aggressions by the forces of the Muzorewa-Smith regime. Following these events the Zambian president expressed his preoccupations to Mr. Hoffman, who reasserted Algeria's support for Zambia. Colonel Slimane Hoffman was received in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) by President Julius Nyerere with whom he had talks on problems concerning the liberation of Africa, and particularly the east Africa region. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD]

CSO: 4420

INTRICACIES OF SELF-RULE NEGOTIATIONS EXPLORED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Jun 79 pp 22-23

[Article by Mazin Mustafa: "Can al-Sadat Upturn Tables on Begin's Head"]

[Text] If we are looking for an alternative to confront or equalize the dynamic Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, it is wrong or it is an ideal to imagine that the current Arab conditions are this alternative. No projection, regardless of how incapable of making calculations, can say that the present Arab situation can create a new reality that will upturn the picture or change the battlefield or, as a minimum, can prevent the treaty and its consequences from spreading throughout the area.

This is not meant to provide an excuse for procrastination and tardiness. Rather, it is meant to acknowledge a bitter reality that makes it clear that such a dynamic alternative should have been born and should have been standing on its own feet before al-Sadat's "surprise" of visiting Jerusalem.

At the same time, acknowledging this reality does not preclude the possibility that the Arab alternative can come and can be effective if the embryos of Arab strength are bolstered, considering what may happen in the future. Here, it seems necessary that the nation's history be calculated by the minutes, the seconds and even by the tenths of seconds to guarantee that history books record the phased victories. No nation triumphs at once and in a sudden manner after constant defeats in various stages. Let us return to the reality and see what the picture of the immediate future looks like within the framework of two fundamental facts:

First, the fact that the parties to the treaty, namely Egypt, Israel and the United States, are moving swiftly to transform the treaty into a successful reality, relying on the Arab inability as an element assisting to convince the masses that this [treaty] is what is possible. Moreover, the al-'Arish handover ceremonies, the lowering of the Israeli flag and the hoisting of the Egyptian flag create an illusive feeling of the positive aspects of the treaty among the masses despairing of the Arab situation. Here is al-'Arish being returned to Egypt without any bloodshed! Moreover, here is Egypt insisting that the Palestinian self-rule lead to a state after the end of the interim stage!!!

Second, the fact that even the minimum Arab balance is threatened as a result of the lack of clear positions and the vacillation of these positions between the right and the left, not to mention their being torn apart between the two inclinations. This hampers the birth of the alternative. There is no doubt that the current situation in Lebanon and all the forces clashing on its soil--forces that represent all the Arab and international sides--reflects this fact. Moreover, the U.S. administration has guaranteed the elimination of radical and fanatic opposition to the treaty by its "commendable" efforts, by its hints and by talking freely about division in the United States over the treaty, the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

This picture reveals that the first fact (the reality of the treaty) is more capable of movement and more effective and is enhanced by the momentum of negotiation whereas the second fact (i.e. the alternative to the treaty) is in a state of anticipation and does not have enough time to map out its path clearly.

Perhaps what makes the first fact more effective is the analysis inclined to say that al-Sadat may back down on the treaty in the face of Menahem Begin's intransigence, his provocative approach and his determination to get everything without giving anything, not even honeyed words. Begin even insists that al-Sadat drink the poisoned cup to the last drop!

The wager on the possibility of al-Sadat's retreat is not exclusive to the Western press. It has its supporters in the Arab world, in addition to those who dream of an "imminent" day in which al-Sadat will stand up to declare to the world that Begin wants both peace and the land and in which al-Sadat tramples the international community's resolutions and backs down on his commitments. Because this harms us and harms the world--the words are supposed to be al-Sadat's--I declare suspension of the treaty until the Israeli government submits to the international community's resolutions!

This current believes that the U.S., Western and Israeli information media play a dangerous role by heaping praise on al-Sadat's heroism and his ethics by exploiting his psychological vulnerability, his admiration for the Western ways and his aspiration to the role of a hero. The current believes that the Arab counterattack must be designed to prevent the consequences of the Western and Israeli praise.

The fact is that whoever believes that al-Sadat is under the influence of the praise of the Western and Israeli media that exploit the goodness of his village ethics--as if the researchers of the strategic and military research institutes in Israel and Egypt, the CIA and Brzezinski read nothing but Freud and the book "How To Make Friends"--is no different from whoever agrees with al-Sadat that 75 percent of the conflict with Israel is fundamentally psychological!

It may seem for the first instance that Begin's intransigence on his three no's--no withdrawal from Jerusalem, no to the Palestinian state and no

recognition of the PLO--in the face of al-Sadat's insistence on a complete self-rule for the Palestinians leading ultimately to setting up the Palestinian state will cause the treaty to be suspended!

What seems more likely to be achieved than this impossibility (suspending the treaty) is either al-Sadat's abandonment of his demand for a complete self-rule and being content with what has been realized or continuation of the negotiations with Israel on Israel's terms, after softening these terms with U.S. pressure, to reach a compromise providing for a special arrangement with Jordan over the West Bank. This approach will be coupled with efforts to contain, if not eliminate, the PLO, to distribute the Palestinians in the Arab world and to put an end to the Lebanese crisis.

The question is: Why is the possibility of suspending the treaty getting more distant while the other possibilities are becoming closer?

The answer is that Israel, Egypt and the United States have formed through the peace treaty a tripartite alliance which has its long-range strategic goals--goals in which the Palestinian issue constitutes only a procedurally significant dimension in the American view while constituting a fundamental dimension insofar as Israel is concerned.

To make the picture clearer from the viewpoint of the U.S. political scientists, the momentum of the first phase of the negotiations has led all the parties to a point that can be called the "investment dilemma"--the investment started since 1967 with the Rogers initiative, with Kissinger's shuttles which flourished after the ouster of the Soviet experts from Egypt and brought U.S. influence closer to the area, with the attempt to contain the Palestinian resistance and then with the alliance with Egypt--the center of weight in the area. All this has been done with the promise of bringing about Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Will the United States permit everything to be buried just because Israel refuses to withdraw from what it calls "Judea and Samaria?" Will Israel be able to continue to refuse and remain intransigent? Can Egypt suspend the treaty?

In answering these questions, each side moves with pressuring cards to achieve its interest and to protect its investment locally so as to promote this investment internationally and to gain the blessing of the balance between the two super powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, at the Carter-Brezhnev summit which will be held this month, especially since SALT II is totally void of any reference to the Middle east crisis, as if it sanctifies the old partition on which the (Glasboro meeting) agreed--a partition which considers the Middle East a vital area for U.S. interests. This explains the speed with which the tripartite Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. alliance has moved to tackle the crux of the problem, namely the Palestinian issue, because this issue will continue to be the main inlet for a Soviet return to the area at a time when exclusion of the Soviets from a settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli crisis constitutes the starting point of the tripartite alliance, not to say that the Soviets are the number one enemy, as al-Sadat and Begin have agreed.

This fear of a Soviet return is the card exerting pressure on all the parties. Added to this card on the Egyptian side is the determination to set up complete self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an alternative [sic] to normalizing relations and opening the borders with Israel without any restrictions. If Israel refuses, Egypt will find itself in an embarrassing situation that will compel it to suspend the treaty. This is something that the United States rejects and that counters by exerting pressure on Israel to make new concessions.

As for Israel, it will use the words of the Bible, the promised land myths and the Jewish settlers' insistence on remaining in Judea and Samaria. It will give in return an administrative rule to the population but not over the land. The second card that Israel waves is the card of exerting pressure on Carter in the U.S. elections and of threatening him with the Zionist lobby which will not give Carter its votes.

As for the United States and the pressuring cards it holds, it is a completely different issue, considering that the United States has pledged not to use political and economic pressures against Israel to force it to adopt flexible positions. These pledges are meant to enable Israel to get the most concessions it can get from the Egyptian side whether on the Egyptian front or the Palestinian front. However, this pledge will not prevent the United States from hinting at pressures if the negotiations reach a stalemate.

Insofar as the Jewish pressure on the U.S. presidential elections is concerned, the appointment of Robert Strauss, a Jew who holds the position of Carter's adviser for commercial affairs, as a negotiator for the self-rule and Strauss' selection of Jewish aides will alleviate the intensity of the confrontation between the Jewish lobby and President Carter. But can predictions be made on what will satisfy this lobby to the degree that will neutralize it in the interest of the U.S. administration? Will it be more pressure on Egypt or on Israel?!

The question remains: What is the immediate and swift Arab alternative which the minimal Arab solidarity can project and which may constitute an element in what we have referred to as the embryos of Arab strength?

To determine the immediacy, we must return to the course of the negotiations. In the first phase of the negotiations, the negotiation momentum focused on signing the peace treaty in accordance with an Egyptian term tying the treaty to the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the Arab alternative was to seek the minimum-limit solidarity. It is simultaneously painful and honoring that the West Bank was the side that gave the practical reply to the treaty with demonstrations and with commitment to the PLO.

In the phase immediately following the signing, the Arab reply came in the form of the boycott against Egypt. This boycott did not prevent Egypt from proceeding in its course. The surprising contradiction is that in the third phase, which started at the end of last month, the momentum of the negotiations focused on giving the Palestinians in the West Bank who emphasize

their commitment to the PLO, self-rule at a time when the Lebanese war flared again and when the Israeli shelling of the Palestinian refugee camps escalated.

In view of this picture, support for the PLO remains the real criterion for the credibility of the Arab alternative for foiling the peace treaty. This is the criterion because striking the Palestinian force has been the fundamental goal of U.S. policy--a goal seeking to prevent the Arabs from reaping the fruits of the first military victory over Israel and, perhaps, to prevent the recurrence of such a victory.

The PLO is not the only embryonic force. But it is the first such force with the opportunities which it provides for proceeding toward the phase of comprehensive Arab resistance in which the Arabs shoulder their historical responsibilities and in which the latent capabilities—and how vast they are!—are transformed into actions that rise to the level of changing the reality.

8494

CSO: 4802

ARAB ATTACKS AGAINST EGYPTIAN PEOPLE DENOUNCED AS HARMFUL

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Jun 79 p 13

[Article by Jalal Kishshik: "Against Egypt or Against al-Sadat?"]

[Text] A putrid smell fills and poisons the Arab atmosphere. It is the smell of malice against Egypt and of insults against its people. It is the smell of a plot that seeks to fill the hearts of the Egyptians with bitterness and hatred against the Arabs and Arabism, as if the goal and the purpose is to push the Egyptians to rally behind al-Sadat and even to throw themselves in the bosom of Israel to spite the Arabs, to answer hatred with hatred and denial with disavowal.

There is no doubt that President al-Sadat has adopted steps that all the Arabs reject openly and that all, or most, of the Egyptians disavow in their hearts. We in AL-HAWADITH have expressed our opinion of al-Sadat's steps in a manner that needs no repetition or reminding. Though it is easy to attack al-Sadat and to condemn his steps, a large degree of courage is required to confront the cheap or base attempts to exploit these steps with the aim of transforming the battle against the Egyptian regime into a battle against the Egyptian people, even against Egypt's history, place, sacrifices, role, leadership and civilization. Confronting this plot requires courage and vigilance. Those who talk about Israel's plot to isolate Egypt from the Arabs do not realize that al-Sadat's steps cannot achieve this isolation, but rather will isolate the regime. Isolating Egypt and its people is achieved by this group, these crows or this rash that has erupted on the Arab nation's face. This group has been pretending to be crying for the Palestinian cause, whereas it is the first to have wasted the cause in the company of female artistes and in brothels burning incense for leaders on the pretext of defending the Palestinians. They are the ones whose hands are soiled with the blood of the Palestinians. They attack Egypt, slight its history, insult its people and incite against them to the degree that made a man from Upper Egypt, whose family has offered more than one martyr and who has been able to achieve no more than the post of a brick carrier in an Arab country where the building of the Arab brothers is raised with these bricks--when this man saw the fever of insults and vituperation, he heaved a sigh and shouted from the depth of his heart: "What an injustice, Arabs." The provocations against

people from Upper Egypt who have never thought of politics made these people demonstrate and cheer President al-Sadat in one of the Arab countries. Should the "injustice" continue, these people may perhaps cheer for Menahem Begin's life.

Where do these abominable voices come from? In whose interest does a yes-man who is worth no more than a bilharzia worm deposited by an Egyptian peasant on the Bar-lev line—in whose interest does such a man write attacks against Egypt?

How magnificent Prince Fahd was when he said that Egypt has offered what is more dear and precious than money, namely men, and when he said that Egypt is the heart of the Arab nation. It is out of this appreciation that our position rejecting the isolation of the heart emanates. This is why we reject Camp David.

Yasir 'Arafat was decisive and sharp when he said: Whoever incites against the Egyptian people is a criminal and a traitor.

These positions are not just for the sake of doing history justice. A politician is different from a historian. If any interest were served by raising hostility against the Egyptian people, a sincere Arab politician would not hesitate in the face of history and would even sacrifice history for the interest of the present and of the future. But awareness and sincerity stress that the fate of the Arab-Israeli battle, and even of the battle of liberating and building the Arab homeland, should center around restoring the Egyptian role and around exerting efforts to release the Egyptian popular will in order to correct the official Egyptian course. The shortest way to foil this goal is to insult Egypt and to instigate against its people, rather to instigate the Egyptian people to hate the Arabs. It is not for the sake of the Egyptian history but for the sake of the present and future of the Arabs that the sincere Arab leaders warn against any harassment of Egypt the homeland and Egypt the people. It is for wasting the present and destroying the future that the crows turn into eagles against the Egyptian people and that they release the putridity of regionalism and the malice of sectarianism with the planning of the Zionist plotting.

What is more, I cannot understand how an Egyptian writer remains silent on the insults made against the Egyptian history in the ~~same~~ paper in which he works. I understand, even though I do not condone, his silence on the Israeli-Egyptian treaty and his failure to deal with it in any manner that would anger either Caesar or Christ. Such a position is understandable, because this writer is well-known for his calculations. But how can he keep silent on insults against Egypt, Egypt's history and the Egyptian people?

One time, an editor of AL-HAWADITH took the opportunity of the absence of the chief editor and of the escalating campaign against al-Sadat to write an article casting doubt on the Egyptianism of Sinai. I got into a rage that only an Arab and an Egyptian can get into, answered this editor in a

manner that silenced him and others who were getting ready to wade into the mud of such allegations and cut their tongues. The AL-HAWADITH family decided to ban this editor from writing finally and transferred him to the management. Defending Egypt and the Egyptian people means defending the Arabs and Arabism. Beware of killing Egypt, because the Arabs will thus kill themselves.

8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

SOVIETS TOLD EGYPT IS BETTER FRIEND THAN REJECTIONISTS

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 28 May 79 pp 8-10

[Article by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah: "Endeavor To End Egyptian-Soviet Tension; What Is Required of Soviet Union; Why Do Soviets Exert Pressure on Egyptian National Capitalism; Statement of Account Revealing Soviet Union's Loss From Alliance With Rejectionist States"]

[Text] In one of his addresses to the masses of the governorates, President Anwar al-Sadat said that Egypt has no objection to improving its relations with the Soviet Union if the Soviets change their conduct toward Egypt.

On the following day, an American journalist pointed out that the president's statements "were misinterpreted" as extending a hand toward the Soviet Union. The president told the journalist that this is Egypt's constant policy toward the Soviet Union and toward other states, meaning that we want to establish good relations with all, depending on their conduct toward us.

Last Tuesday, the papers published a statement made by the president to a West German paper saying that Egypt has no objection to the Soviet Union's participation in the Middle East peace process and has no objection to convening the Geneva conference.

Walker on Thorns

We consider, as have many political observers, the aforementioned an endeavor to find a way to reach an Egyptian-Soviet understanding and even to eliminate the causes of the current tension in the relations as a first step on the path toward "the comprehensive solution" for the Egyptian-Soviet relations.

The fact is that talking about the Egyptian-Soviet relations is like walking on a bridge afire or, at least, on thorns. Matters between the two countries have been complicated, and the complications have been intensified by other matters and states in the area that have entered the game of international balances among the three major powers: The United States, the Soviet Union and China.

On the other hand, the mistakes by both sides have increased and multiplied as a result of the logic of reaction in most cases.

But the burden of the task is alleviated by the fact that Egypt has no objection to ending the tension between itself and the Soviet Union. It is our opinion that there is no fundamental conflict between the two countries. Rather, there are between them common working points that are fit for more than ending the current tension.

Though we are talking about the multiplicity of mistakes, there is a fact that we have repeatedly highlighted on the pages of this magazine since December 1975 concerning the Soviet Union's fundamental responsibility for the deterioration of the Egyptian-Soviet relations. We do not want to dig up the past now. This is a luxury that we cannot afford under the current complicated conditions engulfing the entire Middle East area. This week, we will try to discuss what sort of conduct is required of the Soviet Union to end the current tension--an end which is undoubtedly in its interest, as it is in Egypt's interest.

Outcome of Rejectionists

The Soviet Union has tried to "dispense with" Egypt's friendship and has focused in its relations on the so-called rejectionist states, of which Iraq, Syria and Libya are the most prominent. What is the outcome?

Through constant blackmail and deceitful acts, Syria has been able to acquire large quantities of very advanced weapons from the Soviet Union after losing most of its weapons in the October war. What has Syria done with these weapons?

It has not liberated a single inch of the occupied territories.

It has occupied the territories of another Arab homeland, namely Lebanon, and has misled the entire Arab world into believing that this has been done to safeguard Lebanon's safety and unity.

It has not fired a single Soviet bullet in defense of Lebanon's independence in the face of the daily barbaric Israeli attacks against Lebanon, and even the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories.

The Soviet bullets have been used to annihilate the Palestinian revolutionaries and the Palestinian people generally. When the possibility appeared that the Lebanese progressive forces would triumph in their battle against the Lebanese right, the Syrian Army hit the strongest armed group in this front, namely the Palestinian revolution's army.

The Syrians have not yet signed a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. When they disagreed with the Soviets over several aircraft that they wanted, the Syrians made a big stir against the Soviets and forgot that they had remained "on the stone," [sic] as the saying goes, for more than 10 years.

Internally, the Syrian "leftists" are still freezing the Progressive National Front, banning activities by the Syrian Communist Party, prohibiting the party from publishing its official paper and imposing restrictions to limit these activities. Not a single step of progress has been made in this regard despite the Soviet solidarity with the Syrian Ba'thist left!

Internally, perhaps the Soviet experts who are spread throughout all aspects of the Syrian life know that capitalist development is going on at top speed in Syria, that the parasitic capitalism is plundering the country's resources, is giving and taking bribes and is corrupting and being corrupted, and that the families and followers of the Ba'th leaders are getting rich daily through looting and plundering. All this is happening under the banners of socialism.

What has the Soviet Union gained from its close alliance with the Syrians? It has gained the charge by the national forces that it has encouraged the Syrians to shatter Lebanon's unity and to strike the Palestinians.

It has reaped an enormous loss from the sweat of the Soviet toilers--a loss in the form of unbelievable equipment offered to a regime that is not sincere in its struggle for liberation and a regime that raises demagogic slogans.

All this while the solution for Syria's national problem has not advanced a single step!

So much for Syria, what about Iraq:

The Soviet Union has given Iraq immeasurable moral, material, industrial and military support and backed Iraq in its battle against the Kurds and against Iran.

Disagreements in viewpoints have at times taken place, but the Iraqis have never forgiven this disagreement. They have persisted in their slander and defamation of the Soviet Union. We know and you know what they have been saying, as if my friend is required to abide by all that I do and say.

The Iraqis have gone to purchase weapons from France, England and, also, the United States.

They have attacked the Soviet Union because it resells the oil that it gets as a price for the weapons and the plants that it supplies to Iraq, as if it is supposed to supply these things to the Iraqis free of charge when they get from their oil revenues an income that they are entitled to save, relying on the "Soviet asylum for the needy."

They, also, have not used the Soviet weapons to liberate a single inch of the occupied territories or to defend Lebanon's unity and independence, even though they lead the Rejectionist Front.

They have even turned toward the Arab right to conclude with it security treaties after being scared by Afghanistan's leftist revolution and being frightened by the recent developments in Iran.

This means that they have not done the world socialist revolution any good and that they have become afraid of this revolution. Moreover, they have offered the world liberation revolution nothing.

Domestically, the magnificent articles that our colleague Jamal Salim writes about the Ba'th's sabotage and destruction of the Iraqi National Front and about the Ba'th's persecution of the communists, who are the Ba'th's allies, reveal that the wisdom of al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf al-Thaqafi is still certainly realistic: "Iraq, the people of hypocrisy!"

Economic transactions with the United States and with the West generally are increasing, and the new class is growing larger and larger.

What good have the Iraqis done the Soviet Union in recent years? We can record one benefit: The Iraqis intervened to stop the war between the Democratic Yemen and the northern Republic of Yemen.

The Soviet Union has incurred a grave loss because its close association with the Rejectionist Front has made Egypt believe that the Soviets are the ones who stir the Iraqis to attack Egypt, even though the fact is the complete opposite. What moves the Iraqis are other motives that are embedded in their regime and philosophy.

There remains Libya.

So far, Libya is a loyal ally of the Soviet Union. It has not yet embarked on the phase of rebellion and of biting the hand. The Libyans pay the cost of the weapons and of the equipment without complaint. They do not attack the Soviet Union and do not flirt with the West. They are also establishing serious alliances with the Soviet Union's friends in the area.

But the problem is that Libya has no real effect or impact on developing the area and on making its big events for reasons written in the tablet of destiny!

On the other hand, Libya's friends get a spray from the rash acts that Libya's rulers commit at times.

Take for example the issue of the rash Libyan military support for Idi Amin's hateful regime. This support has made many people blame the Soviet Union for instigating this support.

Take also for example the constant Libyan aid and instigation against the Sudanese regime since 1976 which makes the Sudanese and the Egyptians also point the finger at the Soviet Union, accusing it of attempting to besiege Egypt from the south, etc.

This is the statement of account resulting from the Soviet Union's commitment to the new "alternative" to Egypt, namely the rejectionist states.

What Has Soviet Union Lost?

But what did the Soviet Union lose when it lost Egypt?

It lost the friendship of 40 million Egyptians. I hope that the Soviet comrades will not believe those who raise big slogans and who trade in words when they say that the Egyptian people love the Soviet Union and appreciate the Soviet aid, contrary to their government.

This is not true.

The Soviets are like a man who gave another a million pounds to help him. But when the second man encountered a serious crisis and asked the first for 50 more pounds to save himself, the second man refused. Naturally, the impact of the first million pounds weakened and faded!

[No] one in Egypt, be he in the government or from the people, can deny the past Soviet aid and support.

But we have all experienced the Soviet mistakes toward Egypt, especially since the guns went silent at the end of October 1973.

We have also lived through the Egyptian endeavors to correct the situation. In 1976, I wrote on the pages of this magazine verbatim: "The Soviet Union has given the Egyptian right on a golden platter the justification to weaken Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union."

Economic Pressure

The Soviet mistakes escalated recently to the degree of arousing the anger of the Arab [sic] national capitalism that has the prime interest in the growth of the economic and trade relations with the Soviet Union which purchases from this capitalism its production of leathers, shoes, clothes and furniture. These are products that the West does not buy.

A number of these capitalists whose enthusiasm for the restoration of the Egyptian-Soviet relations to normalcy cannot be doubted because of their interest--these people came to me and told me surprising things. I will leave it for the reader and for the Soviets to evaluate and judge these things:

Representatives of the Soviet Ministry of Trade here conclude contracts with the Egyptian producers for certain quantities of leather, shoes and textiles.

Before the goods are shipped to the Soviet Union, Soviet experts come to check and examine the goods, agree that the goods meet the specifications

and give their approval for their shipment. The goods are transported to the shipping piers in Alexandria.

Suddenly, signals come from Moscow saying: We do not want the goods. Just like that--after the contacts for the deal are concluded, after the credit facilities are acquired and after the Soviet experts approve and sign the papers.

The Egyptian producers have told me that there are goods for millions of pounds piled up on the shipping piers in Alexandria and that the Soviet ships refuse to transport them.

One of the producers told me that in 1978 he shipped goods valued at 67,000 pounds and that the Soviets have not paid for them yet, even though he has worn out his soles going and coming to the Soviet trade attache, and even to Moscow.

When I asked the Egyptian producers why they don't market the goods in Egypt, they said that they are made in a special fashion that agrees with the preferences of the Soviets.

Moreover, the fashions are now old, considering that more than a year has passed on the goods that are piled up on the Alexandria piers.

The Soviets answer these complaints by saying that Egypt is the one that had banned shipments to the Soviet Union. However, this ban lasted 2 months only.

Colonialist Method

It is known of course that the aim of this action is to exert economic pressures on Egypt. We tell the Soviet comrades frankly that this method used to be confined to the colonialists only. The Soviet political literature abounds with writings on this kind of pressure.

So, we want the Soviet Union to stop using these methods with Egypt.

We want it to tackle the issue of supplying the spareparts necessary for the Egyptian plants built with its aid.

We also want the Soviet Union to deal with the issue of supplying spareparts for the weapons that we purchased from it.

And what prevents the Soviet negotiator from agreeing to a convenient rescheduling of the debts?

We ask the Soviet Union for nothing more than to have his allies in Africa stop attacking Egypt and Sudan.

Angola's position toward Egypt, for example, is good. Why doesn't Ethiopia take the same position?

Why doesn't Mengistu settle the Eritrean problem? Egypt and the Arab and Islamic world will continue to support the Eritrean people's struggle for liberation. This position was also the Soviet Union's position before Mengistu came to power.

Why does the Soviet Union tie its destiny with that of the Arab Rejectionist Front? Why doesn't it come forth and shoulder its responsibility in the peace process and participate in developing the Camp David accords instead of leaving Egypt alone to confront the Israeli intransigence and the U.S. alliance? Such a position will later drag behind it the rejectionist states, or most of them, and will help to stabilize the conditions in the Middle East, will gain Egypt's friendship and will blockade the Chinese "octopus" which has begun to adjust its old revolutionary ideas to blockade the Soviet Union in Africa and the Arab world.

Twisted Methods

Egypt has always been frank and clear in its policy. It has concealed nothing, has engaged in no hypocrisy, has not misled and has not concealed its economic and political system behind demagogic slogans.

Friendship with a definite and clear regime evokes greater confidence and security than friendship with snake-like and twisted regimes whose slogans deafen the ears and blind the eyes.

As a start, we suggest that the Soviet information media stop attacking Egypt and copying the methods of the rejectionists.

A sincere word on the occasion: The petit bourgeois, trivial and meaningless method of the rejectionists has predominated the objective revolutionary proletarian method, and Moscow Radio has become another copy of the Ba'th radios.

An end to the propaganda campaigns may eliminate the fog which conceals the common points between the two countries--points whose discovery may at least guarantee an end to the current tension.

8494
CSO: 4802

POSSIBILITY OF BEGIN'S RESIGNATION OVER SELF-RULE ISSUE EXAMINED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Jun 79 p 26

[Article by Nash'at al-Taghlibi: "Real Crisis Between Egypt and Israel; Washington Does Not Exclude Begin's Resignation"]

[Text] The preparatory talks between the Egyptian and Israeli sides have started, and with them the crisis which neither side knows where it will end, even though Egypt is almost confident that the "radicalism" with which Israel has begun is "a requirement of the profession" and that this radicalism will soon recede, as happened in the case of the Sinai negotiations!

But political observers in Cairo see a different situation signified by the actually existing crisis--a situation which some of these observers have called "the agenda crisis."

It is known that Israel has submitted an agenda rejected in advance--an agenda known as the "Begin agenda." At a meeting with Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state who headed the U.S. delegation in the first meetings that were attended by al-Sadat and Begin, Begin said: "I hope you will not exaggerate in exerting pressure on Israel, because after Sinai, we--I, to put it more correctly--will not retreat a hair's breadth."

President al-Sadat, meanwhile, told the delegation of French journalists who visited him 3 days before the self-rule negotiations: "We have no other course before us but to succeed."

This view is reiterated by all the official Egyptian circles, even though these circles acknowledge the "presence of a very deep gap" between the Egyptian and Israeli views.

What is surprising is that both views are based on the Camp David accord and that both sides accuse each other of violating this accord.

But what is more surprising is that Israel claims that it wants comprehensive peace while refusing at the same time any discussion on the Palestinian people's exercise "of complete self-rule." What is meant by self-rule according to the international definition is "autonomy," i.e. self-administration or autonomous independence.

Israel, and Begin in particular, views self-rule as something that is as close as possible to a municipal council whose members can run their affairs without having anything to do with running their country's affairs, because their country no longer carries the name of Palestine or the West Bank but that of Judea and Samaria. As for Gaza, let the understanding be on it.

If this is the definition of self-rule, then how can the Palestinian people's political independence, or right to self-determination and to the independent Palestinian entity with its sense of absolute sovereignty over the land, be reached?

Here is where the crisis started. The foundations of this crisis were laid down by Eliahu Ben Elisar, the crisis maker, who started the early negotiations at the Mina House Hotel in Israel [presumably meaning Egypt]. Elisar's first objection was to the presence of the name of "Palestine" on the negotiations table and to the flying of the Palestinian flag at the hotel's entrance, even though the Palestinians were not represented in those talks or in others.

The crisis which started last Friday was not surprising. The Egyptians expected it even though all the official comments did not attach any significance to it.

Dispute over the agenda?! It is normal, and the committees which will search for common grounds must inevitably reach a common denominator!

Is it to facilitate the task of these committees that Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the Egyptian minister of defense, met with Chaim [sic] Weizman, the Israeli minister of defense, after the first session of negotiations?

Perhaps it was, even though the declared goal was to discuss the redeployment of forces in the Sinai after Israel's withdrawal for a distance of 2 kilometers east of al-'Arish.

The information reported, by Israeli sources, on the Egyptian agenda says: Israel cannot release at present more than 16 Arab detainees (who have been actually released) on the occasion of President al-Sadat's visit to Israel and as a first step to restore trust to the Palestinian people. As to what the—Egyptian—agenda has included on stopping the construction of settlements and on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from these settlements, what has happened in the Sinai will not be repeated in the West Bank nor in any other area. Moreover, discussion on holding Palestinian elections under international supervision is considered premature, because what is of prime importance is to agree on the kind of self-rule and on the powers to be given to the Palestinian national council—after its formation. These powers will under no condition undermine Israel's military, security and settlement control over the West Bank.

Egypt was eager for the participation of a Palestinian delegation, even a delegation consisting of the Palestinians residing in Cairo, in the ceremonies marking the restoration of al-'Arish as a symbol of their restoration of their

land. But Israel excludes even the mere thinking of restoration of the land, rejects any bargaining and any pacification and still believes in the rule of one eye for ten and of one tooth for ten. This is a principle that Israel is applying in southern Lebanon without any international deterrent.

Therefore, the question is: If Israel will insist on this position and if it will insist on "not retreating a hair's breadth," as Begin told Vance, then how can its relations with Egypt be normalized within 8 months of the present time?

Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, said after his meeting with Dayan, the Israel minister of foreign affairs: We have agreed.

It is understood that the phrase "we agreed" is connected with the normalization of relations. An Egyptian-Israeli committee from the two countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs was actually formed to discuss the issues pertaining to this topic. Does this mean that Egypt expects flexibility in the rigid Israeli position, and what degree will this flexibility reach?

Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state, has said frankly that he does not expect quick progress in the negotiations but that some improvement may appear after several months.

Cairo on its part says that the presence of Weizman and Dayan in the Israeli negotiating team, despite their disapproval of the Begin plan, is an indication of a mixture of the spirit of moderation with the spirit of inflexibility.

But the information leaked by Tel Aviv--and it seems that Tel Aviv has leaked this information intentionally--emphasizes that Begin intends to resign from his post if the United States tries to pressure him in order to force him to back down on his position. He "will not go any further than he has done in risking Israel's security."

Washington itself does not exclude the possibility of Begin's resignation. This is what has been hinted at by some members of the delegation accompanying Cyrus Vance to the Bi'r al-Jab' (Be'er Sheva) negotiations.

Has the United States circulated this possibility as a test balloon, or has it meant it to be a prelude for a definite position in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations?

Some observers in Cairo assert that the U.S. role in the "difficult negotiations" that will last several months will be more that of a mediator than a participant, i.e. that Washington will avoid as much as possible exerting pressure on Israel at a time in which it--Washington--is facing a new presidential election campaign.

But there is a counter opinion that says that achieving new success in the self-rule negotiations which must by necessity end after a year, i.e. a few months before the U.S. presidential elections, is the guarantee for the success of President Carter and for his re-election!

Amidst the whirlwind of these conflicting possibilities, it can be said that the self-rule negotiations are of the long-drawn-out type of negotiations that are coupled with numerous elements, including Israel's continued withdrawal from the Sinai, the normalization of the Egyptian-Israeli relations and the exchange and cooperation resulting from such normalization.

In any case, the Palestinians will have to wait 3 years to be able to take part in these negotiations that seek at present, according to President al-Sadat's phrase, "to remove the suffering of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in response to the demand of the Palestinian women..."

8494

CSO: 4802

STATE APPARATUS REORGANIZATION UNDER STUDY

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Jun 79 p 6

[Article by Muhammad al-Shamma': "Studies To Reorganize State's Administrative Apparatus; Discussion on Abolishing, Merging and Setting Up New Agencies; Starting Movement To Eliminate Chronic Obstacles"]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR has learned that a team of organization and management experts is conducting an important study for a major reorganization of the state and to determine the degree of the capability of the agencies and units to achieve their goals at maximum efficiency.

As a result of the proposals produced by this study, some ministries and administrative units and authorities will be abolished, merged or set up to improve the capability and efficiency of the state's administrative apparatus and to eliminate the chronic administrative problems.

AL-AKHBAR has also learned that the study comes in the light of some important administrative principles, foremost of which is the transfer of the president's powers to the governors, the carrying out of planning, followup and control work by the ministries, provided that the governorates carry out the executive work. These principles also include the principle of preventing duplicity, overlapping and similarity in the work and powers of the various agencies and the principle of taking into consideration integration and harmony between the powers of the state's ministries, administrative agencies and authorities.

AL-AKHBAR has further learned that the proposals produced by this study will be ready before completion of the new ministerial formation so that they may be studied when this new formation is completed.

This study, which is supervised by Dr Hasan Tawfiq, chairman of the Central Organization and Management Agency, is conducted by a team of the agency's organization and management experts with the help of the administrative guidelines established through the various studies that covered each of the state's sectors separately, in addition to the on-the-spot visits made to the various sectors. This study seeks to establish the best administrative

organization to enable the administrative work to move forth and to achieve the goals required of each of the state's sectors. The study seeks to achieve this administrative organization through its evaluation of the efficiency of the public sector organization in achieving its goals and through making all the proposals that may lead to eliminating existing organizational flows or to achieving the goals at higher efficiency by the state's main organization in its entirety--proposals for eliminating duplicity of powers and for abolishing, merging or setting up new administrative units.

8494

CSO: 4802

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE ON GROWING, MARKETING COTTON

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 May 79 p 6

[Report by Hasan Sallumah]

[Text] The first conference of the Agricultural Research Center, held under the chairmanship of Dr Mahumd Dawud, the minister of agriculture, recommended yesterday the cultivation of fast-growing varieties of cotton for use in the production of popular cloth material.

It also recommended re-examination of the cotton marketing system, of the crop's role in the Egyptian farmer's economic life and the relationship of all this to the domestic and external prices.

The conference also recommended that the importation of short-staple cottons be restricted to no more than 820,000 qintals annually and that this quantity be allocated for the cotton mills that are remote from agricultural areas. The conference further recommended that stress be put on implementation of the agricultural quarantine measures, that the present cotton crop structure be studied and that the ideal quantities for the local industry and for exportation be determined within the framework of solving the food security and balance of payments problems and the framework of streamlining the use of the natural resources, especially land and water.

The conference also recommended that a regional plant be built in al-'Arish expeditiously, and that all forms of specialized agricultural research and experimentation with modern chemicals in the cultivation of cotton be introduced. The conference, which lasted a week and was attended by 500 Egyptian agronomists, demanded that the area cultivated with clover be reduced to less than 2.8 million feddans and that the drop be made up for through raising the feddan's productivity, thus permitting expansion of the cultivation of other winter crops, such as broad beans and lentils, in addition to expanding the area cultivated with wheat.

8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

BRIEFS

PRODUCTION PROJECTS--Jamal al-Nazir, the minister of state for economic cooperation, has stated that big projects will enter the stage of production. These projects, with investments of 2 billion pounds, are joint projects. Since the onset of the peace phase, Egypt has become in a position that enables it to plan its economy and to channel its financial and manpower resources toward domestic investment. The minister stressed that Egypt does not fear economic competition with Israel in the coming phase, because the Egyptian resources are vast and because Egypt possesses the raw materials, mineral resources and water which the neighboring countries, including Israel, lack. The minister also said that the effects of the open-door economic policy in the agricultural and industrial spheres will appear shortly in the form of big and small projects, that Egypt does not need so much to amend the laws as it needs to change the means of their implementation, so that they may become simpler and more cooperative. This alone will dispense with the need to amend the laws. Jamal al-Nazir further stated that the government will give top priority in the coming phase to channeling investments toward solving the fundamental environmental problems, which require enormous investments. For example, developing the telephone service requires 1.5 billion dollars, and the sewerage system requires 700 million dollars. He also said that the state is concerned with preparing the Egyptian man and drawing up a plan to exploit the manpower. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Jun 79 p 1] 8494

CSO: 4802

BAGHDAD PAPERS TAKE DIM VIEW OF TEHRAN'S ARAB POLICY

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 22 Jun 79 p 5

[Text] In their inside pages both "ATH-THAWRA" and "AL-JUMHURIYAH" newspapers published two articles on Iran.

In its second page article, under the heading "More Than One Shah in Teheran", Ath-Thawra newspaper said:

"Once again the rulers in Iran began demanding the Arab Bahrain and alleging that the three Arab islands, the Big Tunab, the Small Tunab and Abu Mussa were "Persian" and furthermore these rulers began following again their aggressive and expansionist tendency.

The expansionist policy of the rulers in Teheran has blown up their earlier statements and indicated that these rulers are not only following the suit of the Shah but they have even more enmity spirit against the Arab Nation and a black hatred against whatever is Arabian.

The clear evidences in this regard are the measures adopted by the Iranian authorities against the autonomy-seeking Arabs and other nationalities in Iran.

Furthermore, some of the Iranian rulers are demanding the resumption of co-operation with Sadat's treasonous regime who is completely boycotted by the Arab Nation after the signing of the agreement of humiliation with the Zionist enemy.

Besides, groups of military experts have returned to Iran, and they are now distributed on several air bases. And this is something contradicting with statements given by the new rulers on the new era's anti-American imperialism tendency.

The march of the past few months which followed the assuming of the new rulers in Teheran into power, was full of tragedies for the Iranian peoples who thought that the collapse of the Shah will put an end for injustice, submission and oppression.

The new Iranian rulers should realise that their attempts to export crisis abroad are doomed to failure and we remind them that if they kept playing with fire, it is certain that their fingers will be the first to be burnt.

Writing in its sixth page under the heading "Will Iran Return to Practise the Role of the Gulf Policeman?", Al-Jumhuriyah newspaper said yesterday:

"The new Iranian regime has failed so far to deal with the internal difficulties and the situations in the Middle East and we could simply say that the persistence of the current situation under the new Iranian regime will have serious results in the forthcoming stages for the Middle East area and the Arab Gulf region which represents a strategic position due to the existence of the oil fields in the area.

If the Iranian revolution was really an anti-imperialist revolution as stated by the rulers in Teheran we have to say that this revolution should have established good relations with Iraq who plays under the Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) an active role in confronting imperialism and the Zionist aggression.

From the very beginning the rulers in Teheran met Iraq's full support for the Iranian revolution in a cool manner and in a later stage the mass media of the new Iranian rulers began attacking Iraq.

However, one might ask why the new rulers in Teheran are attempting to wreck the relations with Iraq?

It is clear that the nationalities in Iran and in particular the Arabs began demanding self-rule to practise their legitimate right, because under the former regime of the Shah these nationalities were not able to announce such demands due to the racist and chauvinist policy practised by the former regime.

Accordingly it was something very natural for these nationalities to seek autonomy under the new regime but the way the Iranian rulers met the demands of these nationalities had put the new regime in a state of flagrant contradiction.

CSO: 4920

IRAN

TWO MILLION IRANIANS ON NARCOTICS

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG in German 11 Jun 79 p 8

[Article: "Heroin Trade in Iran Is a Good Business for Many Again"]

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni presented the Iranian narcotics market with good business conditions: With the overthrow of the shah last February the last barriers restricting the drug traffic had fallen. At the same time the United States withdrew its advisors on narcotics affairs and almost immediately peddlers on the streets of Tehran quite openly offered anything that the market would want: hashish, heroin, opium. Hundreds of thousands of peasants in the fertile Western regions of the country have now started to harvest what is most likely the largest crop of poppies of the century.

When the peasants came to realize the collapse of the security organs of the state, they hastened to plant again "*papaver somniferum*," the poppy from which opium is obtained. If the revolutionary leader now shouts with worried mien that heroin peddlers are "traitors of the first rank and a danger to society," he is apparently too late.

Seyyed Nassrollah Mossavi-Zadegan, director of the largest rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Iran, estimates the number of Iranian addicts to be 2 million. This would amount to 5.25 percent of the population (the shah's government had always talked of 600,000 addicts). Unemployment, lack of medical care and of suitable normal analgesics and recently also the prohibition of alcoholic drinks have contributed to the situation that more and more Iranians reach for the "hard stuff."

Narcotics are a part of the country's history. The term "hashish" can be traced back to Hassan Sabah, the "old man of the mountains," who lived from about 1040 to 1124. His drug-addicted followers were called "hashashin"—later also "murderers" because they terrorized the Near East from out of their fortress of Alamut.

Measures against narcotics are a problematic affair for Khomeyni, the religious leader and unofficial head of state, because the Koran does not

mention narcotics—only alcohol is forbidden—but doctors have already urged him to declare narcotics to be "haram"(taboo).

In the meantime the Ayatollah Rabbani Shirazi has demanded the reduction of poppy cultivation. He appealed to the revolutionary committees to cooperate with the government agencies to get hold of the poppy harvest. His idea was to have the state pay for every kilogram of opium double the customary pre-revolution price of 8,000 rials (about DM 200) against assurances from the peasants that they would indeed deliver up the entire crop. But Mussavi Zadeegan believes the peasants would at best deliver up only one-tenth of the "opium harvest" and would channel the rest into the illegal market.

In the last year of the shah's rule, 15,000 hectares were planted to poppies. Nobody knows now how large the area is at present. Immense fields of red are reported from the "opium provinces" of Luristan, Kurdistan and Azerbaijan. The local gendarmerie has been dispersed. Many villages have now armed themselves. There is hardly any possibility to seize their crops by force.

Iran, in 1955, was the first country to prohibit poppy cultivation. By doing so it was ready at that time to put up with an annual loss of \$40 million in foreign exchange revenue. Because poppy cultivation was all the same being continued, the shah, in 1966, permitted a limited amount to be grown but at the same time introduced the death penalty for traffickers in opium.

From 1969 to 1976 about 300 narcotics dealers were executed, mostly "small fry"—the big shots in this business have never been caught. This gave rise to speculations that even highest members of the regime that was toppled in February had their fingers in the pie. A retired narcotics agent recently testified before a revolutionary court that a close relative of the monarch had been in control of the heroin traffic.

In the filthy brothel district of Shar-E-Now (New City), in the south of Tehran, hundreds of shabby addicts offer to passersby opium, heroin and hashish. In Jamshid Street and in the nearby "golden alleys" where the prostitutes live, addicts huddle together. They no longer have to fear the police because they never show up anymore. Formerly, many homeless addicts used to freeze to death in the alleys during the winter. The garbage collectors would pick up the corpses in the morning and send them to the medical colleges for dissection.

The narcotics dealers are now also armed. They helped themselves from the arsenals that had been opened by the revolution. "These people are not afraid of the police. They think they can beat our narcotics agents if necessary," complained Colonel Parviz Sahabi, chief of police in the "New City."

A narcotics dealer substantiated the colonel's statement: "Formerly we used to bribe the police. Today narcotics are under the jurisdiction of the

revolutionary guards who, however, are not trained for the task. Many members of the guard live in the prostitutes quarters and are addicted themselves. But even if one is caught one can still always buy one's way out."

8453

CSO: 4403

IRAQ

BARRE'S VISIT: FRANCO-IRAQI RELATIONS ARE SOUND

Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Jul 79 p 1, 5

[Text] Baghdad hopes to establish privileged relations with France. Brief but intense, essentially political in character but implicitly commercial, the "working visit" of Raymond Barre promises to take place under the most favorable of auspices. How could it be otherwise, since officials of both countries have qualified their relations as "excellent," have no contentions to iron out, and they have not fixed, so they say, any precise objectives to reach?

Nevertheless, in the space of 48 hours, the French Prime Minister will have at least three long interviews with his Iraqi counterpart, Vice-President Saddam Husayn, who fills the role of chief of state. The particularly austere encounter will not be marked by any formalities of protocol, a ceremonial banquet, nor any touristic visits--except perhaps a brief cruise Sunday afternoon on the Tigris and a courtesy visit Monday afternoon to President Bakr.

The duration and importance that is conferred to the talks, does not testify to any commercial interests whatsoever, the French side insists, but rather to the friendship and reciprocal confidence which characterizes the relations between the two capitals. Barre will inform Saddam Husayn and respond to any of the questions the latter should ask about the international situation, East-West dialogue, the SALT Treaty, the Tokyo Summit, and the French and European attitudes with regard to energy problems, Africa, the Near East, etc.

The two statesmen will cover (without a doubt) the risks engendered by the Washington treaty, instability in Lebanon, Iran, in various areas of the Gulf, and will try to harmonize their respective policies in a region where considerable uncertainty menaces the crucial interests of both.

The part taken in the dialogue and understanding is dictated by analogous motivations of both parties. France in the future shall view Iraq as a "major, responsible power" in the Near East. As a

result of a certain isolation brought on by the Camp David accords in September, Baghdad exercises a growing influence as much in the Gulf states as in the states bordering Israel, notably Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as with the Palestinians. Due to a pragmatic policy not yet devoid of ambiguities the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is undertaking good relations as suitable to the moderates as with the progressives, giving the impression of having bent its attitude with regard to the existence of Israel since it no longer insists on denouncing Security Council Resolution 242.

French officials have again noted that the Iraqi regime seems less vulnerable than others in the region to destabilizing factors. The anarchy which is reigning in Iran in particular favors the Ba'thist control over the Kurdish and Shi'ite Arab populations. With these remarks the Paris government hopes just as much as that in Baghdad that Iranian-Iraqi affairs will become normal. It is in the interest of both parties that Teheran be able to master the situation in Kurdistan and assure the production and flow of petroleum in the region.

Without a doubt energy problems occupy the choice place in the conversations between Mr. Barre and Mr. Husayn. If it is true that their attitudes are not identical on this subject, France is nevertheless pleased with Iraq's oil policy, which is considered to be "realistic and largely conforming to Western interests." The Iraqi government increases from year to year its production of crude, thus contributing to the stabilization of prices. It puts aside a growing portion of its production for France, which will thereby be assured this year of a quarter of its energy needs.

CSO: 4800

DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF OIL PROJECTS

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 79 p 2

[Text] Since the foundation of the Administration for Planning Oil Installations in 1964, then followed by the State Company of Consultancies and Planning Oil Projects, great developments have been witnessed in the field of oil and gas.

In 1976, Law No. 101 was promulgated according to which the State Organisation for Oil Projects was founded consisting of the State Establishment for Designing Oil Projects, the State Establishment for Oil Constructions and the State Establishment for Supervising Oil Constructions.

However, the 1976 activities of the State Organisation for Oil Projects may be summed up as follows:

--Applying the rules of the Law No. 101 of 1976, and complementing the installations of the three establishments, which are financially and administratively independent.

--Providing the departments with the necessary manpower in order to implement the projects directly.

--Constructing the installations in Doura which consist of workshops and garages for repairing machines and equipment, stores, laboratories and providing the necessary cadres for operating and maintaining them.

--Constructing oil installations in Basrah.

--Establishing departments for planning, programming, cost evaluation, storing, purchasing, and internal auditing and expansion of the use of computers in applied engineering and commerce.

Although the Organisation was newly founded it participated actively in the implementation of the Strategic Line, Bakr Port, the Iraqi Turkish Oil Pipeline, the Basrah Refinery, Rumailah and Nahran Omer Oil fields and the extraction of Mishraq sulphur.

In fact the Organisation showed remarkable ability in implementing the tasks assigned to it.

The following are some of the projects that are executed by the Organisation:

--The Southern Natural Gas Exploitation Project (1st stage): The project aims at exploiting the natural gas of the Rumailah Oil Fields in order to be used as an energy source. However, a design is prepared to collect the gases and feed them into the Liquid Gas Project which will be established for the purpose of exporting by sea 4.5 million tons per annum.

The first stage of the above project is made up of the following:

1. A Network for Collecting the Gas:

A pipeline network to collect the gas from the degassing stations of the Southern Rumailah has been laid. The daily capacity of the network is 577 million cubic feet of gas. The network consists of pipelines that connect the degassing stations which are as follows:

- a) A pipeline connecting the Degassing Station at Qarinat with the one in Shamiyah.
- b) A pipeline connecting Shamiyah Degassing Station with the Southern Gas Station.
- c) A pipeline connecting the Southern Degassing Station with the Southern Rumailah Station.
- d) A pipeline connecting Southern Rumailah Field with the Northern Rumailah Field with the aim of using the gas for the operation process in both fields.

2. Gas Drying Unit

This project covers installations used for collecting the liquids which are attached to the gas molecules then pump them to a unit for degassing.

3. Liquids Isolating Unit

This station pumps the crude oil that could be obtained from the gas to the Zubair Crude Oil Pumping Station while the dried gas is supplied through a network of pipes to different industrial installations.

Liquid Gas Project in Basrah

In fact this Project was established to meet local demands for this material. This Project is situated in Zubair District near the degassing stations. It produces 200 thousand tons of liquid gas.

The Project in its first stage produces 280 million cubic feet of natural gas. The produced gas is provided through a network of pipes to the industrial projects in Khor-el-Zubair at a daily capacity of 240 million cubic feet.

However, through special processing, the gases of propane and butane are isolated from the natural gas. The necessary amounts of the above two gases are mixed to produce the liquid gas, while the surplus are burned.

The Project has the capacity of storing 2700 tons of the liquid gas. Special vehicles for transporting 20 tons of gas are used to supply the stations used for filling gas cylinders.

The Project was established within 18 months and with a total cost of ID. 5.5 million. However, the state Organisation of Oil Projects had supervised the implementation of the Project and will be run by the state Organisation of Oil Processing and Gas Production.

Nassiriyah Electric Station

A Project is prepared to provide the Nassiriyah Power Station with gas and crude oil as fuel for its operation. The Project consists of two main pipelines, one for transporting gas and the other for crude oil, as explained below:

1. A Gas Pipeline

The pipeline is a 24 inch diameter pipe of 135 km long. The pipeline connects the Northern Rumailah Oil Field with the Nassiriyah Power Station. 220 million cubic feet of gas will be pumped daily.

2. Crude Oil Pipeline

In order to supply the Nassiriyah Power Station with fuel from the Northern Rumailah Oil Field, as an alternative to gas, a 12 inch diameter pipeline of 26.5 km long has been established to provide 1.25 million tons of crude oil annually.

3. Gas Cooling Unit

In order to ease the pumping of the gas through a 24 inch diameter pipeline to Nassiriyah Power Station, all the heavy hydrocarbons are isolated from the gas.

4. Gas Control Unit in Nassiriyah

This unit controls the gas pressure and records the consumed amounts by the Power Station.

5. Crude Oil Unit

This unit is used to refine the received crude oil.

Actually, the cost of the Project estimated was too high in case if it has been executed by contractors, but the implementation of the Project through the direct method dropped the cost to ID. 8 million.

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

CIVIL AVIATION COMMITTEE--Baghdad, 9 July--The Iraqi-Syrian-Jordanian Higher Committee for Civil Aviation concluded its meetings in Baghdad today and adopted a number of resolutions. It resolved to set up a joint center for air control which will completely cover the three countries' airspace, and to unify the bylaws and regulations in accordance with the unified civil aviation law of the Arab Civil Aviation Council. It was also decided that the Joint Aerial Navigation Committee will meet in Damascus on 21 July to unify the tariffs levied on aircraft flying across the airspace of the three countries. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT 10 Jul 79 JN]

YUGOSLAV AID FOR RADIO--Baghdad, 12 July--A Yugoslav company will establish a radio station in al-Nasiriyah, a district in southern Iraq, at a cost of some \$9 million. Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi signed a contract here today with the Yugoslav company to this effect. Following the signing of the contract, Hammudi stressed the significance of cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia in developing Iraqi expertise. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 12 Jul 79 JN]

RE-EXPORTED ISRAELI PRODUCTS--Amman, 10 July--The newspaper AL-FAJR AL-IQTISADI reports here today that the Zionist entity and the Greek Cypriot administration have signed a secret agreement under which Zionist products shall be re-exported to the Arab countries after changing the wrappers and the place of manufacture. The paper adds that the towns of Larnaca, Nicosia and Paphos have been the centers for the distribution of the Zionist entity products. It says that representatives of the Zionist companies are making successive visits to Cyprus to supervise the implementation of the agreement. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Jul 79 JN]

RESPONSE TO U.S. THREATS--Baghdad, 12 July--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has declared that the Arab nation and its fateful issues and oil resources will not be a card in the U.S. election campaign game and that the Arab nation will not allow the Carter-Begin-al-Sadat alliance to succeed in imposing its domination. The paper says that the U.S. moves and threats

will not intimidate the Arab nation and that the Americans will learn a hard lesson. The lesson taught by the Arabs this time will be a hard one and will burn all the forces of evil and aggression. The paper adds that the mentality of U.S. imperialism, which is threatening to interfere in the Arab Gulf area, is governed by the problems of oil and energy, the so-called Middle East crisis and the U.S. presidential election campaign. The paper warns that the U.S. administration is trying to intimidate the Arab nation so as to force it to join the negotiations on the capitulatory settlement. This would result in gaining the sympathy of the Zionist voters. The paper stresses that the Arab Gulf countries are capable of defending themselves and have strongly rejected the U.S. attempts to form an imperialist political-military alliance on the pretext of filling a security and military vacuum. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Jul 79 JN]

IRRIGATION PROJECT IN SOUTH--Baghdad, 19 Jun--Mr. 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, Minister of Information yesterday reached an agreement with a Soviet company for the implementation of work on the second stage of the river mouth project in coordination with an agency of the Ministry of Special Projects. Work on this stage--whose initiatory and investigatory costs have reached 2.5 million dinars--includes a connecting channel of the Main southern river-course to the Persian Gulf with a length of 170 kilometers. The work shall begin at the irrigation station of al-Shatra and extend to the Persian Gulf and last five or six years. In addition there will be built water conduits for irrigation under the Euphrates river and its confluences with tributary streams. The project of the main river-course--which is considered one of the huge and vital projects in Iraq and which will attain a length of 430 kilometers--will effect the distribution of irrigation water to an area of 6.5 million donums of agricultural lands in central and southern Iraq. It will have a water-distribution capacity of 300 cubic meters of water per second. The project has the aim of accumulating irrigation waters and transporting them to the Persian Gulf in the amount of 2 billion cubic meters at the final stages. The concentration of salts in these waters will be very high, nearing 10,000 parts in a million. Also the company will assist in 1) the stabilization of moving sands,; 2) the conservation of the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates small lakes and al-Ahwar; and 3) the desalination from salts leached out by irrigation, these to be put to use for certain things like transportation routes, and utilization of the rivers for navigation and tourism. [Excert] [Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 79 p 4]

COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT--A statement by Sa'd Ahmad, member of the Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee, was released in Beirut yesterday. The statement said that the party no longer has any connection with the ruling national front in Iraq contrary to some reports suggesting that the party has only frozen its membership in the front. The statement said that the party's two ministers in the cabinet and the party representatives in the Legislative and Executive Councils in the autonomy area and in other departments and establishments have formally tendered their resignations but that some of these resignations have not been made public. The statement recalled the party declaration, released last May, calling for the establishment of a new democratic front and the formation of a coalition government. [Text] [Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Jul 79 p 12 NC]

CSO: 4802

LEGALITY OF TAKING PRIVATE ARAB LAND AT ALON MOREH QUESTIONED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 79 pp 13, 19

[Article: "Expropriation of Private Arab Lands at Alon Moreh Is of Questionable Legality"]

[Text] Yesterday in a secret and well organized operation, the Alon Moreh nucleus of Gush Emunim journeyed to the Rog'iv district with the close cooperation of the IDF. During the early morning hours they received orders to seize the land for the representatives of the proprietors.

The important ministers in Menahem Begin's government--the security minister, the foreign minister, the vice prime minister and the finance minister--were opposed to the resolution proposed this week that a city center called Alon Moreh be established in the vicinity of Shehem. This occurred at the time of the regime's vote on the protest of the vice prime minister Yigal Yadin at the ministers' meeting on security. At that meeting it was resolved to implement a prior motion for the establishment of an urban center in the Rog'iv district, 5 kilometers from the center of Shehem. It was to be reserved for the Alon Moreh nucleus of Gush Emunim. Eight ministers rejected Prof Yadin's protest (the prime minister was not present at the session. He conveyed his position in a note). The ministers were: Sharon, Moda'i, Nissim, David Levi, Abu Hatzzeira, Hammer and Burg. Five ministers supported the vice prime minister's protest. In addition to Prof Yadin, Tamir and Katz the protest was supported by the minister for foreign affairs and the security minister, while two ministers abstained--the finance minister and the minister for industry, commerce and tourism.

This week's debate in the government was the last of a series of debates and resolutions by the government and the committee of ministers for security matters on this particular subject. Two months ago the government resolved to establish the urban center Alon Moreh near Shehem and a permanent settlement at Shiloh. Protests were raised on the resolution and the location of the municipality by the vice premier Yigal Yadin and by Ari'el Sharon the minister of agriculture. He objected to the fact that no steps had been

taken by the IDF to close the area. These past few weeks the Security Minister Ezer Weitzman did not agree to the initiation of steps to close the area. He had been made aware of the opinion of the government Attorney General Prof Yitzhaq Zamir. According to this opinion a portion of the lands in the district that had been designated for seizure was privately owned. In the debate held this past week on this topic by the ministers' committee on security matters it was decided to establish the municipality in the Rog'iv district. And as stated the government this week rejected Prof Yadin's protest. He opposed the appropriation of privately owned land and resented what appeared to him to be excessive pressure from the Gush Emunim group.

In sharp contrast to this position, the Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon and the chairman of the ministers' committee for resettlement state that the establishment of a municipality in Rog'iv is critical from a military standpoint. In this matter he relies on the recommendations of the Defense Office (IDF). Minister Sharon referred to all the motions passed during the past week's session and noted that decisions should not be made without putting them into effect.

The ministers who supported Prof Yadin's objections or who abstained did not substantiate their positions by invoking any basic principles. For example, the minister for foreign affairs stated that in his opinion Israel has the right to settle anywhere. Nevertheless, privately owned land should not be expropriated. The action may act like a boomerang. The defense minister repeated his former position that it would be improper to expropriate private land. Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, who had abstained originally, expressed his opinion that he was persuaded that the settlement in that particular area was important but he was opposed to expropriation of private land.

Basically this was the original determination of the Likud regime. It had overtly decided on the expropriation of privately owned land for the purpose of settlement. This past week at the ministers' meeting to discuss matters of security Prime Minister Menahem Begin presented the legal opinion of the government Attorney General. His opinion is based on a precedent wherein the High Court of Justice delivered a verdict in the case of settlement at Beth El. The decision permitted the expropriation of privately owned land for the purpose of settlement. This decision provides the prime minister with the necessary authority for the establishment of additional settlements on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Lately he went so far as to bring the decision to the attention of the American Foreign Minister Cyrus Vance as if a decision of the Israeli High Court of Justice bears the same weight as a decision of the International Tribunal at the Hague.

The aforementioned decision (rendered on March 13) determined that the military command is authorized for military needs to seize or close off lands belonging to the Arab inhabitants in the vicinity of Beth El and Tubas. They may even establish Jewish settlements as part of a defensive deployment

by the IDF in the district. The judges emphasized that the actions of the military rule are justified from the standpoint of the martial law prevailing in the area as well as from a consideration of the international law applying to occupied territory. They clarified the term "permanent habitation" that is being applied to the Jewish settlements. It does not connote that these lands are being requisitioned permanently from their rightful owners. It is quite possible that at some time during the peace negotiations with our neighbor a new arrangement may determine the fate of the existing settlements in the area.

An affidavit relating to this matter was tendered to the High Court of Justice by General Avraham Orli, the coordinator of activities in the territories at that time. Among other things he stated: "The establishment of a settlement in the territory at Camp Beth El constituted no imposition on our military requirements. On the contrary it was of distinct assistance since it fitted into the government's security concept which bases its security deployment among other factors on the presence of Jewish settlements. In accord with this concept all the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by the IDF constitute a part of the expanded defense array of the IDF. Moreover these settlements carry a high classification in the expanded defense plans. This is reflected by the high standard of manpower and other means allocated for this purpose. In tranquil periods they serve as a controlling presence in these vital areas, providing watch-towers and similar safeguards. Their importance increases greatly in a period of conflict."

In the face of such an approach it is not to be wondered that the settlers take the law into their own hands and impose their own order since a senior IDF general described their role as "a component of the expanded defense array" and during tranquil periods the settlements serve as a controlling presence in the vital territories.

Now that the official seal of approval has been granted to the appropriation of lands owned by the Arab inhabitants (in glaring contradiction to the explicit promises of the prime minister) all the stops have been removed. Gush Emunim, which has been setting the pace of resettlement on the West Bank, has in its possession a detailed list of the privately owned lands it is seeking to appropriate. These are close to already existing settlements. The list also contains locations of new settlements they are seeking to establish with the close cooperation of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The plan for the development of settlements for the years 1979-1983 was publicized by the chief of the division for resettlement Matityahu Drubels. It was largely inspired by the plans of Gush Emunim and Ari'el Sharon. Among other things it states: "New settlements will be erected only on state owned lands and not on lands privately owned and legally registered in the landed property registry. We must promise there will no longer be a need to expropriate lands belonging to members of the minority groups. This is the basic and most conspicuous innovation in the Ab (name of month)

"plan." Mr Drubels is meticulous in applying the term minorities to describe the Arabs of the West Bank. This is the same appellation as the one used to describe the Israeli Arabs. In this manner for all practical purposes he attaches the West Bank to Israel with a wave of the pen.

Mr Drubels writes further: "The proliferation of settlements must be effected not only around the habitations of the minority but also in their very midst. With the passage of time whether there is peace or not we shall have to learn to live with the minorities and in their very midst by effectively nurturing good neighborly relations. It is desirable that the two nations Arab and Jewish learn this as quickly as possible." According to Mr Drubels planning, 46 new settlements will be established in the next five years on the West Bank. The area will be populated by 16,000 families.

It is quite true that it would be highly desirable to have both nations learn to live together as quickly as possible. For the moment the West Bank Arabs are learning the new reality: their lands are being appropriated for Israeli settlements. This is being done with the full knowledge of Mr Drubels, who would like to develop a good neighbor policy with them. The government's resolution this week though it was passed by a majority was important because of the weighty influence of those who opposed it. Like similar instances in the past, since Likud assumed power, it was exposed to the full and joint pressure of Gush Emunim, Ari'el Sharon and members of the National Religious Party in the government. When the defense minister announced that he was opposed to the expropriation of private lands, the members of Gush Emunim were certain the opposition would not endure for very long. They knew the delay was only temporary. They said as much to a number of journalists who asked for their evaluation of the situation.

It should be noted that during the Likud's regime IDF soldiers cleared the nucleus of Alon Moreh from the area of Rog'iv when they attempted to settle there illegally. This was one of the most violent clashes with Gush Emunim during the Likud's regime. Even then soldiers as well as members of the Gush nucleus warned that they would keep coming back until the government acceded to their demands.

The members of Gush Emunim have again taught us that illegal pressures bring results: the road block in the vicinity of Qadum was a pre-arranged demonstration for the members of the Alon Moreh nucleus who were attempting to settle in the Shehem district, or going up to Shiloh without governmental authorization under the guise of an archeological expedition. They dictate and exert pressures. They enjoy the overt or implicit assistance of Ari'el Sharon and the ministers of the National Religious Party.

It is true that sounds of opposition are heard from the Defense Minister and from the DMC ministers (at times even from the prime minister), but the final result of all these twistings and turnings is always in favor of

Gush Emunim's members. They force the government into an action that in actuality the government agrees to, or to be more precise, a majority of ministers had originally found acceptable. This can best be described as the staging of a rape incident where the victim winks invitingly to the rapist.

Moshe Dayan was correct when he described the appropriation of privately owned land as a potential boomerang. The removal of all restraints in this matter of appropriating lands privately owned by West Bank Arabs will increase alarmingly pressures of the international community on Israel to halt the expropriations and the establishment of settlements. It would be naive to believe that reliance on the decision of the High Court of Justice here in Jerusalem will convince the nations of the world. Especially in the case of the U.S. and Egypt it will fail to have any effect. They will never be persuaded that Israel is right in expropriating lands belonging to the West Bank inhabitants.

The U.S., Egypt and other world powers less friendly to Israel are well aware that the settlements on the West Bank have in essence a political objective. The aim of establishing settlements is to mark the end of a process. As defined by Mr Begin it is to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. It may very well be that the government's decision this week will result in the actualization of the process Mr Begin so greatly fears.

8995

CSO: 4805

QUESTION OF AUTONOMY FOR WEST BANK ARABS DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 79 pp 13, 19

[Article: "Peace with Egypt Is Endangered Unless a Temporary Solution to the Palestinian Problem is Found"]

[Text] Ministers are traveling to and returning from Cairo but the negotiation of autonomy has still not gone beyond discussions on administration and even these have not as yet been concluded. It seems that the knowledge of the deep differences of opinion that are prevalent about the obligations we both assumed according to the Camp David agreements is lengthening the time period devoted to a determination of the type of administration to be established. This is no way to solve the relevant problems. The problem will increase in direct proportion to the time consumed in the negotiations on the crux of the problem; the type of autonomy to be offered to the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The government of Israel has adopted a plan which has not been publicized, though its content is well known. We may assume that Cairo has also prepared a working paper. Dr Butrus Ghali has already announced publicly that Egypt will demand that the temporary rule to be adopted should apply to East Jerusalem as well. Besides, Egypt will also require that unconditional authority be granted to the administrative council and that new settlements cease. There is no doubt that the Egyptian mission will make every effort to make the autonomy rule very much in the image of "self-rule" and even an independent regime. It will make a strong effort to have the autonomy apply to the territories and not only to the Arab inhabitants. Through these arguments it will try to divest Israel of its sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

For the time being American leadership is satisfied with the role of on-looker. But it is reasonable to assume that even in Washington officials are toiling to crystallize detailed proposals. American policy will prevent these from being suggested for discussion while there is hope that Egypt and Israel will find a way for a rapprochement.

Possibly the American abstention in these initial stages of the negotiation is dictated by the consideration that American proposals of any significance are not readily accepted. Only when the two Near Eastern powers reach a state of stagnation will the middle man suggestions of the Americans have an effect. The possibility is not improbable that the American element will in time decide to exert pressure to effect a conclusion of the negotiations (probably during the fall months) which have been continuing for almost a full year. They would prefer to remove this as an issue in the coming presidential campaign in the U.S.

For the present matters are proceeding on the level of an Israeli-Egyptian dialogue. At times one gets the impression that it is more a duel than a dialogue. Cairo's spokesmen though disappointed by King Hussein's refusal to join the political process are not giving up hope that public figures from the Arabs on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be found who at one of these moments will decide to hop on the train of negotiations. They may even offer to stand for election to the autonomy administrative council.

But attempts to change the direction to this end force Egypt to describe autonomy as a jumping off stage to meaningful independence for the Arabs in the territories in Israel's possession. We may assume that Anwar Sadat does not feel that the implementation of autonomy will necessarily lead to the creation of an Arab Palestinian sovereign state. He would prefer that the Palestinian presence of its own free will be joined to Jordan. Essentially the propaganda for Palestinian cooperation in autonomy compels him to voice assurances not only as to the range of the authority to be granted the new regime during the transition period but also the nature of the permanent solution which would follow the transitional one.

Neither does the Israeli prime minister conceal his intentions. His prime concern is what will happen to Judea, Samaria and Gaza after five or six years have elapsed. As he stated Wednesday evening at the Herut convention: "Judea, Samaria and Gaza will belong to us for generations to come." The convention delegates responded with a thunderous round of applause. He went far beyond the pronouncement that Israel would never put up with the establishment of an Arab Palestinian state. His words together with his proclamation: "The artificial line has disappeared." The clear implication is that at the conclusion of the period of autonomy Israel will demand sovereignty over the acquired territories. "Even if we refrain from proceeding along the legislated line of imposing on them the operation of our law, jurisdiction and Israeli administration." That was the meaning conveyed to those present at the Herut convention. Who will argue that their perception was incorrect?

As a consequence Mr Begin is forced to promote the autonomy plan but with the limitations he has set. Apparently he is not aware that the so-called full autonomy that he has devised and of which he is so proud since he personally proposed it to Egypt and to the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza

Strip has supplied them with a lever. By means of this lever they can now argue that the Israeli plan provides a very limited autonomy. It is almost a certainty that this fatal error will result in the negotiations deteriorating into a long drawn-out contest as to what can properly be called full autonomy. At the present moment the prime minister is firmly convinced that autonomy as he proposed it is indeed "full." He is not bothered by the question: How he can succeed in persuading Egypt and the Americans that his definition is the correct one?

All of this can have only one explanation. The prime minister perceives the Likud victory in the election two years ago and the fact of his being chosen as prime minister as a mandate from the Israeli nation to abrogate the partition of western Israel. This partition was accepted by the vast majority of the nation even before the resolution of the United Nations on the 29 of November 1947. It was a prior condition and the basis for the establishment of a Jewish State.

This stance on the abrogation of the partition implies a continued domination by the Jews of over a million Arabs who are not prepared to accept the State of Israel as their native country. Since this sore problem is at the very heart of Arab opposition Mr Begin was compelled to propose autonomy to the Arab inhabitants beyond the green line. He had to commend the plan continuously with all the rhetoric at his command even to praise extravagantly the prospect of a dual Arab-Israeli national existence in tones reminiscent of the oratory of the native Kibbutz Hashomer Hatza'ir and Mapam prior to 1947.

The prime minister is hiding his head in the sand. He fails to realize that a state as described above will be the direct result of his political efforts (if they are successful as undoubtedly they will be). The total Arab population will reach a third and possibly more of the general population. Who can believe that a minority of that significant size will over any length of time be satisfied with a formal equality of rights such as Mr Begin is prepared to grant them?

The Polish nation never came to terms with Russian rule in their country. Twice it rose and rebelled. It waited patiently for the fall of the czar which would create an opportunity to restore their own kingdom. Another part living under Austrian rule was more quiescent (catholic roots). It was acceptable because this rule permitted the Polish nation to dominate the large Ruthenian (Ukrainian) minority. The third part of the nation, under Prussian rule resisted all efforts at Germanization. It found strong support in the other parts of the nation living beyond the official border.

What are the grounds for believing that the Arabs of the West Bank and the Strip will readily accept the continuation of Israeli rule over them? Will they be happy with the autonomy Mr Begin is proposing for them? Will they accept as a decree from heaven the fact that they and their territories are in some manner a part of Israel?

Mr Begin's fervent belief entitles him to the support of his party congress. Though the Bible is the basis of the relationship of the Jewish nation to the land of Israel and this relationship has been acknowledged after World War I the national aspirations of a million Arabs must be taken into account. They do not wish to be subjected to Jewish rule in any permanent manner. Their hopes and desires are being recognized by the nations of the world no less than is our right to a sovereign state and existence in a part of the land. The prime minister is waving the banner calling for the abrogation of the partition arrangements in order to prevent the Egyptian president, the U.S. president and the West European countries from insisting on the granting of sovereignty to the West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs. Perhaps it is a tactical maneuver on his part. But if he is stubborn in his conviction that he must achieve his aim at any cost, he may lead us into war. There is no guarantee that we will be victorious because of the aid of 1,400 public figures ensnared in a wolf trap.

Mr. Begin does not want war. There is no confirmed pacifist who can surpass him in praise of the advantages and blessings of peace. The peace treaty and the normalization of relations between us and Egypt will not remove the danger of war if the prime minister stubbornly insists in following the political line he indicated in the Herut congress. Even if the Egyptian peace remains stable, 10 or 12 years of Israeli rule over Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will exacerbate the Palestinian problem. The progress of our engagement in the area will not be accomplished until the problem has been solved.

The negotiations to which Mr Begin has obligated himself in the Camp David agreement are not aimed at bringing a permanent solution to the problem. The government of Israel has declared that it is prepared to seek an interim solution. At present we should focus our efforts towards the achievement of this goal. It is not an easy task, but it is not beyond the realm of the possible to find a temporary solution which not only Israel but Egypt and the U.S. as well could find reason to grant their approval. If the Cairo regime will try to steer the negotiations in the direction of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and to abrogate Israeli sovereignty over unified Jerusalem an entire year will be wasted. If the Israeli prime minister will be concerned to have the mission under the leadership of the minister of the interior and the police force protect his autonomy plan in the form the government has approved, with no compromises, then a deep freeze will prevail which only U.S. pressure on both sides will be able to end.

What will happen if the American leadership cannot exert sufficient pressure? Were this possibility to occur it is reasonable to assume there would be a return to the cold war between us and the Arab world, especially Egypt. It would be only a question of time before it heated up.

No sanctity attaches to the borders of 1947-1967. Israel has a right to live within secure and recognized boundaries (Provision 242 of the Security

Council). It is possible to change these boundaries in a manner that will increase our security without transforming Israel into a dual national state. If we cannot exclude from the negotiations a consideration of the Palestinian problem we must at least make certain that the administration of the present authority does not give birth to a third state which will separate us from Jordan. Our operation in the negotiations should not be with the intent of laying the basis for a complete acquisition by Israel of the territories. That would leave us isolated in the area and in the entire world. It would make it difficult for us to label the war we may be forced to wage a defensive war.

8995

CSO: 4805

'POST' POLL: WEISMAN FAVORED TO SUCCEED BEGIN

Jerusalem POST in English 11 Jul 79 pp 1,3 TA

[Article by Mark Segal, POST political correspondent]

[Text] Tel-Aviv--Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is the public's favourite to succeed Premier Menahem Begin. This emerges from the latest poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Applied Research Centre for the JERUSALEM POST. According to the questions put to a representative sample of 1,261 adults, Weizman enjoys massive confidence in his work at the Defense Ministry and is the most popular member of a Cabinet whose public appeal is otherwise steadily declining. Moreover, he appeals to all segments of the electorate and is way ahead of the rest among LIKUD supporters.

Weizman, it is confirmed, is the LIKUD's prime political asset after Menahem Begin. In all cases, the level of voting indecision remains relatively high.

[Question] Who is the best choice to succeed Menahem Begin as prime minister if he steps down?

Weizman--17.9 percent
 Shim'on Peres--11.7 percent
 Moshe Dayan--6.3 percent
 Yitzhak Rabin--6.3 percent
 Yiga'el Yadin--3.6 percent
 Yitzhak Navon--1.7 percent
 Others-- 4.2 percent
 Undecided--48.3 percent

[Question] Who is the best choice to succeed Begin as LIKUD leader?

Weizman--28.3 percent
 Ari'el Sharon--2.2 percent
 Yadin--1.4 percent
 Dayan--1.2 percent
 Yoram Aridor--1.0 percent
 David Levi--1.0 percent
 Others--6.1 percent
 Undecided--58.8 percent

Centre Directors Mina Zemach and Amiran Yarkoni report little difference between the oriental and western communities as regards Weizman's choice as the next premier. This also applies to members and nonmembers of the Histadrut. He is particularly a favourite of better-off and better-educated residents of the established urban communities, and among HAR'ARETZ readers.

Just under a quarter of LIKUD and NRP voters unreservedly see him as the next premier. Zemach and Yarkoni note that Peres is least favoured by the well-educated, the religious, and HAR'ARETZ readers. Labor supporters back him, and his support is stronger among people living in newer towns than in the longer-established centres.

As Begin's hypothetical successor in the role of LIKUD Party chief, Weizman enjoys support from middle-class voters, Sabras and about a third of the LIKUD voters in the sample. A similar proportion of labor and NRP voters in the sample see him as most likely successor to Begin at the LIKUD's helm. A quarter of those who voted for smaller lists and just under a quarter of floating voters also regard him as favourite to inherit Begin's party leader mantle. He is more favoured for the post by men than women, and less favoured by religious voters than by secular.

[Question] Who is most suitable for the Defense Ministry?

	June Percent	May Percent
Weizman	62.6	62.8
Sharon	5.5	3.3
Peres	2.8	2.8
Dayan	2.8	1.8
Rabin	2.1	1.6
Others	4.8	4.9
Undecided	19.4	22.8

CSO: 4820

ISRAEL

OPINION POLL CONDUCTED ON AUTONOMY TALKS

Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Jul 79 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 9 July--The majority of the Israeli public (more than two-thirds) closely follows the autonomy negotiations between Israel and Egypt, but the Cabinet's position in this respect is only clear to one-third of the public. More than two-thirds support continued civilian settlement activity in the territories, but a little more than one-half of the interviewees support giving a high priority to the allocation of national resources for that purpose. These are the outstanding results of a public opinion poll carried out for the Information Center. The poll is called "The Israelis' view" and it was conducted by the Institute for Applied Social Science together with the Center for Communications of the Hebrew University from 1 to 3 July 1979.

To repeat, 71 percent of the participants of the poll--which covered a representative cross-section of the adult Jewish urban population--follow the autonomy talks either "very closely" or "somewhat closely" compared with 29 percent who reveal apathy to this issue. At the same time, the poll showed that only 36 percent of the participants in the poll had a clear view of the Israeli Cabinet's autonomy plan whereas to the majority--64 percent--it is either "not that clear" or "not at all clear."

In a series of questions regarding the public's view about civilian settlement in the territories, the following findings emerged: A massive 88 percent majority supports settling the Golan Heights as against 12 percent who expressed reservations about it; an absolute majority of 79 percent supports settling in the Jordan Valley as against 19 percent who object; a moderate majority of 62 percent supports settling Judaea compared with 38 percent who expressed reservation about it; a similar majority--61 percent--supports settlement activity in Samaria while 39 percent object to it. Nonetheless, only 56 percent said that the settlement activity should be given top priority in terms of allocation of national resources and 44 percent were of the opposite opinion.

CSO: 4805

MISHANDLING OF TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS THREAT TO SECURITY

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 79 p 11

[Article by Ze'ev Shif: "Finding of Secret Documents in the Trash Is Only One Manifestation of Lax Security"]

[Text] The sudden trip that chief of staff Refa'el Eytan and the region's major general paid to one battalion was a complete surprise to the commanders and soldiers there. The two arrived in a helicopter and immediately called in the officers. The subject: secret documents were found in the trash just outside the battalion's base. This is the third time that reporter Gabi Baron has found classified documents in the very same place. This time the find included a "secret" document. Other units used to dispose of their trash here too, but the battalion next to it is the one responsible for it and for supervision over it.

It turned out that the officer who marked the document "secret" did so by mistake. It should really have been classified "top secret."

Handling of Classified Documents

Had he acted properly the document would probably have been registered in the computer data bank and all its copies would have been followed. What is no less important: as a "top secret" document only 15 copies would have been made of it, whereas a "secret" document may have up to 60 copies made, or four times as many. The investigation did not conclude who was responsible for tossing the "secret" document into the trash. It was decided to reprimand some officers, including the regional major general and the commander of the artillery unit, and also to charge some officers. The actual guilty party was not found. But it turned out that there are loopholes in the procedures of handling classified documents and thus of keeping state and military secrets.

A few days later, the chief of intelligence in the chief of staff's office, Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi, testified that he was not at all happy with the situation and that instances of disobeying security directives in the field were rather prevalent (the chief of intelligence in the office of the chief

of staff is responsible for all intelligence, including that in the field). In this respect there are only two exceptions: the general intelligence office and the "special" intelligence office. All others, including the government and the ministerial defense committee, are vulnerable to some extent. The result: there are no real secrets in this country.

In this context it may be well to quote one foreign ambassador to Israel who said that the Israeli governmental machinery is like one of those glass encased clocks. All its works can be seen as they move. The observer can see how the wheels move and how each wheel makes another turn.

What is interesting is that this situation prevails here although we tend to exaggerate in formalizing security procedures. The case at hand, when the officer lowered the classification of the lost document, is not at all typical. Usually "secret" and "top secret" are stamped almost nonchalantly (in government offices) even when it is not justified. Later on, in spite of it, there is negligence in keeping the secrecy of the document.

The Americans, for example, have a totally different approach. As few subjects as possible are classified as "secret" and "top secret," but those are carefully monitored. This author remembers someone in the State Department who walked around with a thread around his neck to which a paper clip was attached. When questioned about it the man explained that this was a reminder to himself not to leave any secret documents on his desk. The minute he starts reading a secret document he attaches it to the paper clip. Thus, if he leaves his desk in a hurry the paper is dragged along, and thus reminds him to return and lock it.

Let us return to the situation in the IDF on security matters. The incident of the document in the trash is not the first one and is not an exception, only this time some officers paid dearly for the negligence in which they may not have been directly involved. There was a serious case during the Yom Kippur War when it was revealed--during the first stage of the fighting--that the Egyptians had the IDF code map for the Sinai (the "Serius" map) with all the names used in it. To date it is not clear how the Egyptians managed to get hold of it and how many lives were lost as a result. On the Syrian front there was also a serious case of negligence in field security when the Syrians captured equipment and secret documents in a Hermon post that should not have been there at all. In both cases it was a serious breach of field security at a time when officers in charge were so particular about sources of information of Israeli reporters.

Who Read the Brochure?

As Major General Sagi says, the loopholes existed even before the war, and the situation today is no better. The IDF is one of the least organized armies from this point of view. The "all in the family" atmosphere gets in the way. The difficulty in combatting this phenomenon also stems from the fact that thousands of reservists serve in the IDF on a daily basis. They see and hear a lot and they tend to talk about it. Giving a ride to a

soldier or listening to some on weekend leaves is enough to make the point. Field security has never been able to address this. There is no lack in directive, instructions, standards and procedures for maintaining security. What is lacking, as in other areas, is the willingness to follow them. The source of the problem: lack of discipline.

When it comes to securing documents the IDF has an 80-page brochure which details all relevant directive. There are a lot of details there. Starting with who may classify a document and read it, how to keep it, how to keep track of all copies, how to dispose of secret documents, how to report that and what happens when a secret document is lost. Since the finding of the secret documents in the trash was reported this author has asked at least 10 officers, of various ranks, whether they had ever read that brochure. None of them had heard about it and only a few knew the main sections in it pertaining to securing of documents.

It seems that it is not only a question of discipline. It also shows poor organization and improper distribution of responsibilities. Officers simply do not have the time to read directives. The load on field officers is tremendous. Young officers, first lieutenants, are often in positions of majors and they are overwhelmed with responsibilities. This is augmented by the strange system of daily meetings lasting till midnight. It shows that something is very wrong with schedules and distribution of responsibility. This is also one reason why at a certain stage so many get tired of it all and leave the IDF. This does not justify what happened, but it may explain it.

8546

CSO: 4805

OPPOSING VIEWS ON SETTLEMENTS, SECURITY AIRED

TelAviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 79 p 9

[Article by Ze'ev Shif: "Debate on Elon-Moreh and Security Continues"]

[Text] Lieut Gen Refa'el Eytan and Lieut Gen (reserves) Chaim Bar-Lev have proven once again that security is not a science. What one of them considers vital to the country's security seems to the other to not contribute anything to it and maybe even detract from it and harm it. Actually, why should there not be such a debate on military and security issues? Why can the prosecution and the defense produce expert witnesses, such as physicians, who give contradictory testimony? In the United States, security concerns, generals (retired) and well-known strategists have been debating the SALT agreement and its influence on the security of their country for months. Everyone considers it natural and something to be expected. Here there was an uproar when an opinion opposed to the official one was voiced and there were even accusations of "treason."

Some of the Likud people claim that Lieutenant General (reserves) Bar-Lev has no special professional-security status, since his is a politician and his professional opinions are influenced by his political outlook. Possibly. But whoever voices this opinion would probably want to overrule not only Bar-Lev. They would probably like to include in this category Lieut Gen (reserves) Yitzhaq Rabin, Lieut Gen (reserves) Mordechai Gur, Maj Gen (reserves) Yig'al Allon and their colleagues. But then, no more weight can be accorded to what Maj Gen (reserves) Ari'el Sharon says, or even Maj Gen (reserves) Ezer Weizman, as well as opinions of former chiefs of staff, now cabinet members, Moshe Dayan and Yiga'el Yadin, who voted against the establishment of Elon Moreh. It is said that in this case it would be well to listen to professionals such as Lieut Gen (reserves) Chaim Laskov or Lieut Gen (reserves) Tzvi Tzur. But what do these two think about the military importance of the settlement of Elon Moreh? Are those who accord more weight to Laskov's and Tzur's opinions on security matters willing to follow their recommendations even if they do not conform to the government's position? It should be said: the professional opinion of the chief of staff is not perforce better and more professional than that of any other lieutenant general, in active duty or in the reserves, proficed that person indeed has all the information.

Moreover, the approach according to which the professional opinion of the chief of staff is always above any other professional opinion, may turn out (for Likud or any other government) to be a dangerous boomerang. This author would not suggest, for example, that Begin's government ask, publicly, for the professional opinion of Chief of Staff Lieut Gen Refa'el Eytan regarding the government's autonomy plan. It might turn out that the chief of staff thinks that the autonomy plan is militarily very dangerous for Israel. Of the little that he was quoted it seems that he is not at all happy with the autonomy plan. Will the government agree to alter its policy because of this?

If the prime minister had asked Lieutenant General Eytan, before he went to Camp David, what, in his opinion, we cannot possibly give up in the Sinai, he might have ended up with something altogether different than what was finally agreed upon by the government.

Even the professional opinion of former Chief of Staff Lieut Gen Mordechai Gur was not heard when the final agreement on the Sinai was about to be signed. Had Weizman and the government considered the professional opinion of Lieutenant General Gur we would not have arrived at the agreement on the Sinai as it is now. Therefore, when one wishes to hang on to the professional opinion of the chief of staff it cannot be done on a selective basis: when the opinion fits in and is convenient for the political position of the government it is good and fitting, but when it is not identical with a partisan political view--it is ignored.

The issue of the military importance of the Rujab land near Nablus, be it for a civilian settlement or a military installation, should be separated from the issue of the historical right to settle and to expropriate private lands in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. It would be better to not mix in any divine rights, since anyone basing his actions on that kind of a right will not accept a court's ruling either, nor that of the chief of staff, when they do not suit him. Anyone who believes in this right should be realized, always, everywhere, at any time. The right of a man to have his lawful wife does not entitle him to do so anywhere, even if she consents. Therefore timing and location should be examined, and this should be the starting point of this security issue.

Strategically there is no question but that a battalion commander, surveying the Nablus region, would say that the area where Elon-Moreh was established is important. It is a spot which gives one a good tactical command of the surrounding area. But there is also another point of view, broader, military, political and strategic, which takes into account other security aspects. Even if one accepts the view of Ari'el Sharon, who would like to see a settlement in every junction that commands the main roads of Judea and Samaria, it does not necessarily mandate the establishment of a settlement which will only cause friction with the large Arab city of Nablus. One might add that Elon-Moreh is not one of the settlements of the master plan of the security system that are important for securing the main arteries.

Is there any advantage, from the security point of view, to a step that, as far as the citizens of the largest Arab city are concerned, means that all of Israel's talk about full autonomy to the Arab population is but empty words? If the intent is to prevent, at all costs, any Arab of the West Bank from participating in the autonomy negotiations between us and the Egyptians, then the establishment of Elon-Moreh, on this spot, at this particular time, is an understandable move. But why does the government try to foil its own autonomy plan? If the idea is that at times of war or riots we will control Nablus and the region from this outpost, one could argue that the Kasbah could not be controlled from Elon-Moreh and Elon-Moreh's people could not prevent riots in Nablus, just as Upper Hebron people could not do it. This job belongs to the IDF, which in any event will be in Judea and Samaria, as per the Camp David accords. In addition, it should be recalled that there are three IDF camps in the vicinity of the city of Nablus.

The function of a settlement like Elon-Moreh in times of war is even more debatable. Lieutenant General Eytan claims that any settlement that is part of the regional defense contributes to it, especially when there is a need to defend the IDF routes to the front and to its warehouses. Lieutenant General (reserves) Bar-Lev and others claim, in court, that this settlement is not what is meant by regional defense, which implies clusters of settlements. This is a lone settlement and could very well be a hindrance in times of war, with tanks and other forces, a war which is for the IDF to handle, not a lone settlement.

This author thinks that that establishment of Elon-Moreh was dictated by the desire to prove our right to settle anywhere in Judea and Samaria and by the desire to have many settlements, as many as possible, anywhere in this country. Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon also considers this as part of Israel's security. This author thinks that it has nothing to do with the professional-military debate between Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan and former Chief of Staff Bar-Lev.

8646

CSO: 4805

WEAPONS LOST, STOLEN BY SOLDIERS SAID SERIOUS PROBLEM

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jun 79 p 17

/Article: "Weapons Disappearing From IDF installations Find Their Way to Arabs and the Underworld"

/Text/ At least one IDF soldier loses his personal weapon every day. Data released recently to the general command reveal that four to nine pieces of equipment are declared lost every week. Weapons involved are UZI's rifles and pistols.

About half the lost weapons are found within 1 week and about 20 percent are returned somewhat later. In spite of this, about 15 weapons are written off as lost every month.

Recent surveys and audits have revealed that the plague of stealing weapons is still very much of the problem in the IDF. In spite of efforts of the investigating branch of the military police the rate of weapon thefts has not gone down. Generally the thieves are soldiers who sell their loot to the underworld or Israeli Arabs.

Changing Times

In the course of the investigation it was disclosed that the price IDF soldiers have been receiving from Israeli Arabs is IL2,000 for an UZI and IL1,500 for an M16 rifle. These soldiers did not think that they were jeopardizing the security of the country.

The investigating branch of the military police have intensified their efforts to uncover such occurrences. The main effort is in the north, where two soldiers were recently apprehended having sold seven UZI's and two pistols to an Arab from the village of 'Ar'Ara. The weapons were stolen from soldiers and various bases. Investigation revealed that the two have become virtual peddlers of stolen weapons.

The seriousness of the problem calls for relating to its causes. In the past the "holiness of the weapon" referred not only to the "purity of the weapon" but--and no less than that--to guarding the rifle, pistol or shotgun. This was the attitude acquired during the years of the underground, when any weapon was as good as gold. The IDF knew how to instill this attitude in its soldiers. It turns out that times have changed. Soldiers not only lose weapons and do not guard the equipment given to them, but even (and who would have believed this just a few years ago?) sell weapons to Arabs, and later keep quiet and refuse to cooperate with investigators.

Education and Public Relations

In the opinion of experts, in addition to the efforts of the investigating branch of the military police, the IDF should employ other approaches; continue strict discipline, punish offenders, broaden educational activity and conduct a wide-ranging, thorough public relations campaign that will make clear to soldiers the concept of the "holiness of weapons."

8646

CSO: 4805

BRIEFS

SECURITY FOR SETTLEMENTS--The government waived plans to set up a civilian settlement on Mt Ja'Abara near Hebron after IDR authorities refused to testify to an explicit security need pertaining to its construction. This was disclosed today by State Attorney Gavr'el Bach in the course of a hearing in the High Court of Justice. Our correspondent Moshe Negbi remarks that after the verdict approving the construction of the Bet-el Settlement was given, the state attorney got in touch with Cabinet members and emphasized to them that this court decision should not be understood as an overall permission for establishing settlements in the territories. Mr Bach even appeared before the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs and stressed that according to the verdict settlements may be established only if this is based on a clear security and military necessity. According to him, that explanation affected considerations of the Cabinet, something that was reflected in the cancellation of a previous Cabinet decision to establish the settlement near Hebron. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 79 TA]

MINISTER ON DEFENSE ZONES--The Ministry of Defense has made it plain that it is not prepared to declare each hill in the territories a security zone. After the Supreme Court judgment regarding Bet-el was given, the Qiryat Arba' members asked the Ministry of Defense to declare Giv'at Ja'bari a security zone in order to permit its seizure for purposes of settlement. However, their appeal was rejected. Yesterday the state advocate informed the Supreme Court that the government had reversed its decision to settle Giv'at Ja'bari because it had not received a clear opinion about its security value. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 79 TA]

MEXICAN MINISTER ON OIL ISSUE--This evening the Mexican Finance Minister said that Israel need not fear for its oil supply from Mexico. The guest said this upon his arrival for a visit in Israel this evening. Asked by our correspondent Hayim Platner whether it is not possible that Arab pressure will stop the flow of Mexican oil to Israel, the Mexican minister, David Ibarra, said that Mexico is a serious country which honors its agreements. Israel and Mexico have recently signed oil supply agreements. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Jul 79 TA]

INCREASE IN JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENTS--The government will set up 15 new settlements in the Jordan Valley, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said to the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, prior to his departure for Alexandria. Our correspondent Yig'ali Goren reports that the prime minister promised to take measures to increase the number of water sources and lands to be put at the disposal of the Jordan Valley settlements so that they can absorb additional families. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jul 79 TA]

CSO: 4805

ISLAMIC SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS JERUSALEM ISSUE

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jun 79 p 5

[Article: "Minister of Awqaf Declares at Press Conference: Jordanian Plan on Jerusalem Before International Islamic Symposium; Seventy Prominent Islamic Figures and Foreign Journalists Attend Symposium; Underlining Arab and Islamic Rights in Jerusalem and Drawing Up Practical Programs To Save It"]

[Text] Amman--Kamil al-Sharif, the minister of awqaf, Islamic affairs and holy places, has stated that a Jordanian plan on Jerusalem will be submitted to the international Islamic symposium which will be held in Amman on the 23rd of this month, the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens.

Al-Sharif, speaking at a press conference held at the Ministry of Awqaf premises yesterday, said that the Jordanian plan is based on the need to emphasize the Arab and Islamic rights in the holy city, the need to project a clear visualization and to draw up a practical plan to save Jerusalem, and the need to call for uniting the Arab and Islamic capabilities, resources and efforts in this regard.

At the outset of his press conference, the minister said it has been customary for Jordan to celebrate the Islamic occasions so that the people may live in the atmosphere of Islam, may derive inspiration, lessons and examples from these occasions and may use them as spiritual nourishment on the path of building the Arab Islamic character.

The minister also said that one of the occasions which Jordan has customarily celebrated is the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens. This year, we feel that the issue of Jerusalem has attracted international interest and that it is possible that it has entered the current of international bargaining. This makes it extremely important that the world hear the clear voice and opinion of the Islamic world on this issue.

Al-Sharif said that what must be emphasized in this regard is that the Islamic world considers Jerusalem one of the important spiritual capitals, refuses

to subject the city to any bargaining and refuses to make any concessions on it. It must also be emphasized that any solution that does not underline the Arab Islamic rights to Jerusalem is rejected and will be fought by the Islamic peoples, regardless of how big the challenges and how long the time.

The minister also stressed the importance of holding an international Islamic symposium on the 23rd of this month, the anniversary of the prophet's mid-night journey to the seven heavens, to make clear the Islamic position vis-a-vis the Jerusalem issue--especially in view of the situation which the issue of the holy Jerusalem has reached, of the constant attacks to which the city is exposed, of the dangers that it faces and that threaten its Islamic Arab character and of the premeditated plans that threaten the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Sharif underlined the importance of holding this symposium, especially in this phase in which the Zionist leaders are declaring their consolidation of the aggressive occupation of the holy city and their determination to remain in this city under all circumstances, because of the great place that this immortal city occupies in the hearts of hundreds of millions of people, because of the far-reaching social, intellectual and political life of the Moslems, because of the immortal human vestiges and human heritage that the city contains and that is threatened by and exposed to annihilation.

Al-Sharif pointed out that the issue of Jerusalem and of the holy places is still unknown at the international and Islamic levels and that the feelings of the Moslems toward this issue are still vague as a result of the impact of the world information media--including the deceptive Zionist media--on the minds of the masses and of peoples in the various parts of the world.

This is in addition to the intellectual, social and moral conditions prevailing in our world today and the other modern challenges that face the Islamic thought and the Islamic nation's entity.

Moreover, we have found recently a noticeable interest among the peoples of the world in what is published about Islam, coupled with profound mistakes in visualizing Islam and the Moslems. This requires us to confront it with an organized Islamic effort.

Al-Sharif also said: This being the case, we need a voice to rise in the Islamic world, rather in the entire world, to call for uniting the sincere efforts and to advocate the principle of solidarity and cooperation among all the well-meaning people to save Jerusalem from the premeditated plans that seek to strip it away from the greater homeland and to preserve the religious archeological sites found on its soil, especially the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque. This is in addition to developing our societies socially, economically and morally toward the better, within the framework of the sublime Islamic teachings, values and principles, because this development will give us the ability to stand in the face of these challenges, to benefit from the modern information media and from the public opinion's endeavors to understand Islam and its teachings and to respond to this inclination by

presenting a true picture of the Islamic values and principles and by fighting the distortion campaigns nurtured by world Zionism to incite fabricated hostilities toward Islam.

The minister also pointed out that an invitation has been issued for holding an Islamic intellectual symposium and a fraternal meeting among a select group of this nation's thinkers on the coming anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens from the 28th to the 30th of the month of Rajab, corresponding to the 23rd to the 25th of the current month of June. The symposium and the meeting will be for the purpose of exchanging views and studies dealing with the issue of the holy Jerusalem and the issue of the Islamic call.

The minister further pointed out that Islam and the Moslems are being exposed to a large-scale incrimination campaign in foreign countries, and the Zionist information media are contributing their share toward it. He also said: A free atmosphere must be created to familiarize the world information media with the true Islamic thought, with the pure Islamic faith, and with the constructive role that Islam can play to achieve prosperity and stability in the world. This is why we have deemed it necessary to discuss this phenomenon, to answer questions and to explain the Islamic view regarding these suspect issues and questions.

He further added: It is hoped that the symposium will not only emerge with recommendations and resolutions, despite the importance of this aspect, but will also define some practical steps in these spheres by setting up centers, institutes and establishments that deal with these problems with an open mind. It is also hoped that the symposium will come up with a sound cure for these problems.

The minister also pointed out that the administrative preparations for the symposium are under way and that these preparations guarantee, God willing, that the symposium will proceed successfully according to the goals set for it and that it will give the conferees the opportunity to complete their works and to examine carefully the numerous studies prepared to be presented to them.

Insofar as the studies are concerned, some brothers from Jordan and from abroad have written various studies characterized by objectivity and strength. These studies define the nature of the problems and of the means to deal with them and to solve them. The minister pointed out that these studies include, for example:

The phases of action for a modern Islamic awakening.

The Islamic call and the modern information media.

The Islamic banks and their impact on developing the national economy.

The Islamic economy and its role in the awakening.

Toward an Islamic formulation of the educational curricula.

Positions of foreign information media vis-a-vis Islam, both in terms of analysis and confrontation.

Future of Islam in Canada.

Jerusalem, our sacred issue in Arab Maghreb.

Jerusalem amidst modern international policies.

Mosques in America.

Importance of Jerusalem in Islam.

Jerusalem in the light of the Islamic faith.

Legal status of Jerusalem.

Economic conditions of city of Jerusalem under Israeli occupation.

Al-Sharif said: Nearly 70 prominent Islamic personalities, thinkers, figures with public responsibilities in the past and at present, some active ministers and a number of university professors have been invited to attend the symposium.

He stressed the importance of the symposium, which comes at the right time, especially since the issue of Jerusalem is surfacing again in the international bargainings and since attention is focused on the issue of Islam by the hostile information media that try to portray Islam as a threat to the Western and world civilization. He said that this symposium will provide the opportunity to answer all the allegations, questions and accusations because the elements of Zionist plotting and evil should not be permitted to deny the world the opportunity to hear the opinion of Islam, which is based on the principles of justice, tolerance and fraternity and which advocates international understanding. It is also hoped that a practical plan will be drawn up to confront the Israeli aggression and its occupation of the holy places.

He said: The convocation of this symposium within the framework of celebrating the religious anniversaries is a tradition followed by Jordan on the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the crown prince. The Jordanian leadership wants the country to assume the complete dimensions of its Arab Islamic entity and to proceed on the path of right and virtue.

He further said that holding the symposium will give the brother participants the opportunity to become familiarized with all the dimensions of the Jordanian experience in the various fields, whether in regard to the Palestinian issue, which is the central issue, in regard to the Islamic actions, which is based on awareness and wisdom, or in regard to other spheres within the framework of the Jordanian experience, so that this experience may grow richer and

deeper, so that the best means for serving our issues may be defined and so that the experience may become complete and comprehensive through familiarization with the experiences of others.

Press Questions

The minister then answered the questions raised by the journalists and the information people. Concerning the bargainings on Jerusalem and the interest shown in this city, the minister pointed out the boastful statements of the Zionist entity's leaders and the efforts preceding these statements to Judaize the holy city. He also pointed out that the issue of the city is raised in the various conferences and meetings.

Regarding the practical steps to save Jerusalem which the minister hopes the symposium will formulate, the minister said: These steps will follow the line of planning to explain the issue, to hold contacts and to polarize the Islamic public opinion toward the issue. Perhaps Jordan is prepared to present certain plans concerning this issue to transform the Islamic enthusiasm to the sphere of action toward the desired goals.

Answering a question on the Jordanian plan to be submitted to the symposium, the minister said that this plan is based on the foundations and mainstays to which we have already referred and which include: Emphasizing the Islamic Arab rights in Jerusalem, rejecting bargaining, concessions and the relinquishment of these rights and stressing the importance of strength, unity and the mobilization of the Arab and Islamic capabilities.

Regarding Jordan's position toward the effects of the separate peace treaty and the dangers of al-Sadat's Jerusalem trip to the Islamic cause and to the issue of the holy places, the minister said: The Jordanian position toward this issue is clear. Jordan has underlined its rejection of the treaty, which will not lead to a just solution but to a deadlock, and which will harm the sacred cause and the Islamic cause in the long run.

Minister al-Sharif further added: The Jordanian position emanates from Jordan's awareness of the true nature of the Zionist aggressive expansionist ambitions and its awareness of the need to proceed from the reality of unified action, which provides the means of strength.

He said: One of the benefits of the symposium is that it will give the brothers the opportunity to experience the issue on the spot and to live its true dimensions among us in freedom from any incorrect concepts regarding the issue.

Concerning the invitation to Egyptian scholars and foreign journalists, the minister of awqaf said: Egyptian scholars have been invited. But these scholars do not live in Egypt, such as Kamal Ahmad Abu al-Majd. Asian journalists and Western journalists from Europe and America have also been invited so that they may become familiarized with Islam and its issues, especially since Islam has become a power in the world that cannot be ignored.

As to whether al-Azhar's futwa [formal legal opinion] supporting the peace treaty will be discussed or not, the minister said: Numerous issues will be discussed to develop a unified Islamic position toward the causes and issues projected. Moreover, numerous studies will be submitted to the symposium and will deal with many aspects and issues. I do not want to rush the events here.

Concluding his press conference, the minister asserted the importance of coordinating and uniting the Islamic positions, plans, efforts and forces to save Jerusalem. The minister stressed that we are not dealing with the issue from the angle of the fait accompli that the Israeli occupation authorities are trying to impose, but that we are trying to change this fait accompli, regardless of how big the challenges get and how long our efforts take, because Jerusalem occupies a great place in the hearts of the Moslems who, therefore, will not accept any solution that does not guarantee the Arab and Islamic rights in the city.

The press conference was attended by His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf; Majid 'Irsan al-Kaylani, the rapporteur of the International Committee for the Anniversary of the Prophet's Midnight Journey to the Seven Heavens; and by Dr Ahmad Hulayl, a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Awqaf.

8494

CSO: 4802

MINISTER OF STATE CONDEMNS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE PROCEDURES

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 May 79 p 12

[Article: "Hasan Ibrahim Calls for Frustrating the Ugly Plots That Are Surrounding the Arabs"]

[Text] The evening before last Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered Jordan's statement to the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries currently meeting in Fez, Morocco.

Following is the text of the statement:

Your Excellency, the Chairman, my brothers.

On behalf of the Jordanian delegation and on my behalf, I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for its hospitality and for accomodating this conference of ours.

I am also pleased to extend to you, Mr Chairman, congratulations on your election to this post, which, besides being an honor to you, to your host country and to your noble people, expresses the conference's trust in your wisdom and your ability to manage its sessions and consultations toward success.

I would also like to take advantage of this occasion to express the appreciation of the Jordanian delegation for the fine efforts exerted by the secretary general and his aides in making a success of the business of our conference.

The agenda of our conference involves a large number of important and grave issues that touch our peoples not only in their convictions, aspirations and persistent efforts for a better life, but involve much more than that, as is the case in Palestine, Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territory. Our peoples in the Middle East in particular are now openly exposed to the most vicious attack in its history, and this challenge by necessity leaves us with only one choice, to shoulder our responsibilities in earnest action and genuine, close cooperation and to mobilize all our material and moral potential to resist these threats and frustrate the ugly plots that surround the Arabs

and Muslims, hoping to achieve the aspirations of our peoples for progress and wellbeing and to serve humanitarian principles and the high ideals which they believe in, which the noble Shari'a advocates and which this conference has adopted since its inception.

The unilateral Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has exposed the serious dimensions of the Zionist conspiracy, and it has become clear to the world, as it had been clear to us, that Israel wants land, not peace. On this broad premise, the Jordanian government defined its position toward the unilateral peace treaty.

The treaty came as a disappointment to the Arab and Islamic nation and to all peace-loving countries and peoples, because it did not meet even our minimum just and legitimate demands for complete Israeli withdrawal and the principle of Arab sovereignty over Arab territory. It ignored the Palestinian people and its legitimate right to self determination and violated all resolutions adopted by Arab summit conferences, the Islamic conference organization, the OAU and the nonaligned countries, as well as the UN.

The signing of the treaty also aborted the many gains achieved by the issue in international circles, and departed from the proper road leading to a just and comprehensive solution of the issue without helping the cause of peace at all; in fact, on the contrary, it enable Israel to implement its resettlement and expansionist goals and created more tension in the area. The autonomy as contained in the treaty does nothing but sanctify and give the occupation legal status. The proposed autonomy is unique; it applies to the inhabitants but not to sovereignty over the territory, and achieving it will be accomplished in isolation from the parties in the right and by wresting the issue from legitimate parties and putting it in the hands of their primary enemies. Therefore, we must clearly proclaim that no one can negotiate in the name of the Palestinians except the Palestinians themselves, and that the plan Begin announced recently for autonomy confirms that its object is to seize Arab territory and, consequently, to displace its people.

Given these new factors and elements which the parties to the treaty are trying to employ to create a new reality in the area, we find that we, the persons meeting here, must move together to challenge this treaty and its consequent grave results, and we must work resolutely to keep the issue in its proper channel, exploiting all our moral and physical potential to accomplish the desired goal.

Mr President:

Jordan's policy has been and still is to keep the door open to opportunities for peace to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in which all parties concerned with the issue are participating within an international framework, while reaffirming two fundamental principles:

1. Complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory that it occupied after 6 June 1967, with Arab Jerusalem at the forefront.

2. Recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to exercise self determination and to be established on its territory and within its homeland.

For the aforesaid reasons that governed the Jordanian position toward the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Jordan sincerely endeavored to make the Baghdad summit conference a success, and has taken care to implement its resolutions in letter and spirit. It has emphasized the need to build up the Arabs' own strength to stand in the face of various challenges threatening the destiny of the Arab nation, and has exerted serious and practical efforts to bolster the firm stand of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territory to abort the autonomy policy with its consequences of Zionist resettlement and the displacement of the Arab inhabitants.

Mr Chairman:

Jordan's wealth of experience in the Arab-Israeli struggle makes it conscious of the dimensions of the conspiracy and of how Israel is planning it as it has continued to divide the issue into small issues ever since the occupation. In carrying out this grave plan, Israel created the problem of the settlements on the pretext of security at first, but now has revealed its aggressive intentions and has begun to reveal its activity in establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territory.

From 1967 up to the end of 1978, Israel has seized about 27 percent of the West Bank, and the occupation authorities have established 76 settlements occupied by more than 20,000 settlers. The Israeli government has earmarked the sum of \$40 million for 1979 for establishment of 27 new settlements, and it is now preparing plans to increase the number of settlers to about 150,000.

In view of the grave consequences of Israel's continuing its aggressive policy of establishing settlements on a broad and continuing scale on the occupied Arab territory in a way that will lead to radical changes threatening its Arab and cultural character and the destiny of the Palestinian people, and out of Jordan's awareness about keeping the issue alive before the international community, the Jordanian government went before the Security Council and sought resolution number 446 that would condemn Israel and demand a halt in the continued establishment of settlements. The Security Council decided to form a committee of three members to visit the occupied areas to investigate the situation there and to submit the results of its work to the Security Council on 1 July. Israel announced that it would not recognize the Security Council resolution on the date set for that, so we call upon the members or our organization to exert every effort to support the Arab position on this issue.

Mr Chairman:

I apologize for expressing the reminder that our Islamic organization, the foreign ministers of which are now holding their 10th session, was originally established to respond to the Israeli aggression against the al-Aqsa Mosque,

which burned on that dreadful day in August 1967. That criminal act revealed the dimensions of the conspiracy and faced Moslems with their primary duty of defending their holy places, and so they called for that meeting.

Here we are meeting today, 10 years after that date. The features of our organization have changed and fine steps for coordination and joint action have been taken. However, the Israeli crime and aggression are successful in that territory and against our holy places. The enemy has been able to isolate a founding country, one of the member countries of this organization, and remove it from the field of battle. He has begun to reinforce his position in the occupied territory and in Jerusalem, openly announcing his policy of annexing territory and disregarding the resolutions of our organization and of all international organizations, including the UN with its Security Council and General Assembly.

We all know that on 28 June 1976 Israel made public its decision to annex the Arab part of the holy city under its sovereignty. Since the beginning, it has been seizing the territory surrounding it, cutting off its inhabitants from their means of living, expelling them and desecrating their holy places. In the course of Judaization of and changing the landmarks of the city, Israel has established 11 settlements on surrounding Arab territory inhabited by 76,000 Jewish settlers, and it is now trying to make the Jerusalem area one-third of the West Bank so that it can absorb a million Jews in the future, according to Sharon.

Finally, but not last, the Israeli government submitted a bill to Parliament to force foreign embassies to move to Jerusalem. In this regard the Jordanian delegation submitted to this conference the resolution adopted by the Arab League Council in its last session in order to get your backing and support.

I would like to remind the conference of the repeated appeals of H.M. King Husayn to Moslems everywhere to rise to their responsibilities to defend Jerusalem and protect their holy places which are being threatened and desecrated every day. I would remind you of his emphasis on holding an Arab and Islamic meeting at the highest level to discuss the future of Jerusalem and protection of the holy places. The Jordanian delegation would like to take this opportunity to lay out a practical, well-studied plan to rescue Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places and to have our conference issue a resolution to convene an Islamic summit-level meeting to this end.

Mr Chairman:

The conspiracy which we are facing today reveals its dimensions and goals every day. It is a conspiracy of liquidation, and our delegation calls upon you to work in earnest to halt this imperialist resettlement tide, not only in international organizations but by earnest effort to deter Israel from expansion, since its true objective of dodging any commitment to peace has been exposed.

The joint Arab action that was reflected in the Baghdad summit conference held in November 1978 was only one link in the larger framework of the countries represented in our conference. The grave challenges facing us all puts us face to face with our responsibilities for joint action and objective planning.

The rapid pace of events behind which stand the parties to the conspiracy and which are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue and dominating the area require that we, the conferees here, also move rapidly to take the initiative. I am fairly confident that if the justice of our cause is combined with rapid action, it can challenge and abort the conspiracy.

Jordan has been and still is taking positive positions to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. As stated by H.M. King Husayn, we in Jordan know that the road to the just and comprehensive peace we desire does not lie in giving in to the ambitions of the enemy, but in taking a firm stand on historic and humanitarian Arab right with no boasting and no oneupmanship and with no showing off. We address the world, calling for the language of reason, for a just peace and an honorable settlement of the Palestinian issue and the conflict in our area. Our firmness arises in defending right, not in a hard line against just solutions, and we will not flag in exerting every effort to serve this cause.

Mr Chairman:

It is satisfying that the agenda of our conference has allocated enough of the conference's time to debate many issues deserving our attention. The issue of Israeli aggression against sister Lebanon, which has been suffering terrible affliction for years: we look forward to the day when our sister country can surmount its trial with the help of its sisters, and its authorities can regain sovereignty over all of Lebanon and have security, stability and prosperity return.

We also give particular attention to the Cyprus issue and the sad dispute on the island. Jordan would like to express its hope that the two Cypriot factions can reach a speedy solution agreed upon by or acceptable to both parties within the framework of the independence and territorial integrity of the island, and on the basis of mutual recognition of the fundamental, equal rights of both factions.

We are following with deep interest what is going on in the African continent. The racial discrimination, apartheid and the repugnant theories on which South Africa is founded are still an affront to the international conscience and the moral values in which all of mankind believes. We stand firmly at the side of the oppressed majority in South Africa until respect for human rights is achieved there so that the black majority can exercise its rights on its land.

We are also looking forward to the day of liberation and independence of Namibia and Zimbabwe and the elimination of the obstacles manufactured by the ruling racist white minority there.

In closing, Mr Chairman, I wish our conference the best of luck and success in meeting its responsibilities.

The peace and mercy of God be upon you.

8389

CSO: 4802

JORDAN

CHEF DE CABINET CONDEMNS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE PROCEDURES

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 May 79 p 15

[Interview with al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid by reporter from AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DAWALI]

[Text] American officials sense a profound gulf between the United States and the Arab world.

Much ambiguity and many misconceptions mar the Arab point of view in the minds of American officials.

If the United States wants to be a mediator, it must straighten out its relations with the parties to the dispute in the Middle East.

The United States must make a fundamental shift from the framework in which it is now operating.

The future of Arab-American relations hinges on a shift in American policy to the proper course.

The primary threat in the area is the threat of Israeli expansion and Israel's dismemberment of the area.

Palestine is Palestine and Jordan is Jordan and Syria is Syria.

These are the main points of the interview that AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI had with al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid, Chef de Cabinet, who visited the United States last week and met with American officials, mainly Secretary of State Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski. Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] What are the results of your talks with American officials, particularly Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and members of Congress with whom you have met?

[Answer] The purpose of the visit is to play up the Jordanian and Arab point of view as embodied in the Baghdad summit and to present it to official, journalistic and information media circles.

The Arab point of view is almost absent in the American press and congressional circles though it is wellknown on the official level. Much ambiguity and many misconceptions plague this viewpoint in the minds of American officials. Direct communication is quite essential, and an Arab presence on the American scene is also quite essential, particularly since the Israeli-Zionist lobby is constantly working to bar any possibility of communication of ideas between the Arabs and the United States.

Naturally, my primary purpose in coming to the United States was to speak to the Federation of American-Arab Bonds which, I am pleased to say, is developing and flourishing in America.

At the same time, I seized this opportunity to engage in informational activity.

What Is Needed From America

[Question] What is the American conception of the situation as it has appeared to you during your contacts?

[Answer] American officials sense a profound gulf between the United States and the Arab world, particularly as the result of the unilateral treaty between Egypt and Israel which the United States sponsored and viewed as a groundwork for its peaceful efforts in the Middle East.

American officials stress that they want to surmount this stage and reaffirm to the Arabs that they are anxious for a comprehensive settlement that would take into account, above all else, the Palestinian dimension, particularly the future of the West Bank and Gaza and the future of the Palestinians and the Palestinian homeland.

Our point of view is that the United States must make a fundamental shift from the framework in which it is now operating, a framework that was the result of the emergence of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the removal of Egypt from the Arab arena. What is needed is for the United States to move to another position, that is, to work to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement that would accomplish a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, particularly Arab Jerusalem, enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right of self determination and lay down a clearly delineated timetable for accomplishing these results. At the same time, this would require that the United States straighten out its relations with the two parties to the dispute in the Middle East if it wants to be a mediator in the peace process and halt its arms, financial and oil bias towards the Israelis, who are occupying Arab territory and slamming the door to the peace process.

[Question] How do you view the future of Arab-American relations?

[Answer] The future of Arab-American relations hinges on a shift in American policy to the proper course, because there is a climate of crisis between the Arab homeland and the United States caused by the conviction of the Arab

countries that in the peace efforts the United States has proceeded towards removal of Egypt from the Arab camp, freezing the Egyptian front and ignoring other Arab rights centered in Jerusalem and Palestine. The United States must make a dramatic effort to get out of this posture and persuade the Arabs that it is not working to sanctify this Arab split but to achieve a just settlement and to build corresponding relations with the Arab world.

Principles, Not Proposals

[Question] Have the American officials made any new proposals during your meetings with them?

[Answer] There has been an exchange of views. We have made no proposals to the Americans and have received none from them. The Jordanian government is holding firm to its position that is based on a set of principles firmly rooted in our nationalist heritage and thinking. The most important of these principles are: unwillingness to concede any Arab territory, unwillingness to consolidate the Israeli occupation or to give it any sort of legitimacy, full commitment to the Baghdad summit conference and keeping the door open with the United States and the world for a just and comprehensive settlement.

A Stage Without Egypt

[Question] How does Jordan visualize the coming Arab stage?

[Answer] We visualize the coming stage as one without Egypt. Egypt has signed a separate agreement with Israel in accordance with which it departed from the unified Arab position and commitment whereby were Israel to decide to take a hard line on the future of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Palestinian issue, neither the treaty nor its application would be affected. Therefore, we in Jordan have worked both before and since the summit conference in Baghdad to construct a position of Arab unanimity to correct the balance of power in the area following Egypt's departure from the unified Arab front. At the same time, we feel that, regardless of political or ideological orientation, the Arab countries must strive to preserve the unity of the Arab front to counter the Israeli retaliatory movement, which has accomplished its primary goal of removing Egypt from the Arab scene, and which is currently striking blows at Lebanon and shattering its unity and is also swallowing up the occupied territory. This is the number one priority of the Arab nation. The next in priority is to keep a dialogue alive with the world about the future of the just settlement and also to keep this dialogue alive on the American scene.

Lebanon? Yes

[Question] Then you in Jordan anticipate attempts to fragment the grouping of Baghdad conference countries?

[Answer] Yes. This is the primary objective of Israel and any forces allied with Israel. However, Arab awareness must prevent these attempts from being successful.

[Question] Do you think that Lebanon could be the entry point for these attempts?

[Answer] Yes. Lebanon is the scene of a struggle at the present time that is consuming much of the energy of the Arab nation, not to mention the fact that an historic Arab tragedy is being shaped in the Lebanese arena. The Arab homeland must exert every effort to prevent Lebanon's dismemberment and to prevent the enemies of the Arab nation from succeeding in making the battle going on there a springboard for fragmenting the Arab front.

[Question] From your talks, how do you view the American conception of the Lebanese situation?

[Answer] The American officials stress that they support the unity of Lebanon and back its legitimate central government. However, I heard no specific opinions from American officials about ways to deal with the situation in Lebanon. I also felt that congressional and press circles were very sensitive to the dangers of the Lebanese situation and the need to deal with this situation to achieve stability and security in the area.

[Question] What about Jordan's relations with the PLO?

[Answer] Relations are normal and fraternal. There is a dialogue going on between the government and the organization on aspects of constructive interaction in the light of the Baghdad conference resolutions and the spirit of the program which that conference laid down and in light of the needs for joint Arab action in the coming stage.

Palestine and Jordan

[Question] How do you respond to Israel's allegations that the Palestinian homeland is Jordan, not the occupied territory?

[Answer] Israel cannot determine the geography or the history of the area. Palestine is Palestine and Jordan is Jordan and Syria is Syria. If we are talking in an Arab context, then the Arab countries are part of the Arab homeland and are complete in themselves. If we are talking about the Arab-Israeli confrontation, Israel now occupies all of Palestine, and the people, most of whom it expelled and uprooted in 1948, are the Palestinian people. Israel cannot alter this fact by playing with labels. The duty of international society is to solve the Palestinian problem on Palestinian territory and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights and to exercise self determination on their territory. Jordan, in company with the other Arab countries, will be a factor in the victory of the Palestinian people on their territory vis-a-vis the Israeli occupation.

The Soviet Role

[Question] What is the Soviet role in the Arab-Israeli struggle?

[Answer] The Soviet Union holds to a public and wellknown position, and has not altered its broad context since 1967. We appreciate its continued emphasis on full withdrawal and Palestinian rights. As for the Soviet Union as a great power in the Middle East, that is governed by a number of considerations arising from the Soviet Union's international role, its ideological convictions and its relations with the United States. Therefore, any analysis of the Soviet Union's position in the area must take into consideration these objective factors that influence its policy and positions. We in Jordan have friendly relations with the Soviet Union based on mutual respect and on the development on common interests.

The Threat

[Question] Some American circles stress heavily that there is a communist threat to the Arab world, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula. Do you agree with this assessment?

[Answer] We feel that the number one threat is the threat of Israeli expansion and the Israeli-Zionist efforts to penetrate the area, break up its national unity and split it into weak fragmented entities that cannot block Israeli hegemony. This is the number one threat that must be met. Any imported ideological threats or radical leftist threat must be met by building just Arab societies, honest governments, proper governmental institutions with responsible popular participation in public life and creating climates for Arab dialogue and cooperation. This is what will prevent violent convulsions.

8389

CSO: 4802

CEMENT INDUSTRIES COMPANY PROFITS DETAILED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 May 79 p 2

[Text] The 27th Annual report of the board of directors of the Cement Industries Company for the fiscal year ending on 31 March 1979 showed that net profits for fiscal year 1978-1979 available for appropriation totaled 3,271,907 dinars, of which 10 percent had been transferred to reserves, 38.5 percent earmarked for income taxes, and 1 percent, equal to 15,000 dinars, earmarked for the Jordanian University.

This report points up that the company transferred 258,719 dinars of the 1978-1979 profits to the required reserves for fear of what had happened during the past 3 years when it had to borrow from the required reserves to provide the minimum profits required for distribution.

Although the company transferred a respectable sum to the required reserves, the sum of 500,000 dinars was earmarked as net profits for shareholders and was distributed at the rate of 10 percent of the face value of a share.

The report stated that the company had contributed 16,167 dinars in cash and in goods to charitable and religious institutions, including 15,000 dinars to the Silver Jubilee.

Company sales totaled 1,192,330 tons including 564,914 tons from local production and 627,416 tons of imported cement. These total sales represent an increase of 56.6 percent over last year. The report also advised that the company had instituted a new fiscal system that would match its development and better serve its purposes. In the mining field, the company had made a topographical and geologic survey of the company owned mining areas, and made an evaluation of the quantities checked out this year that are enough to keep the six ovens going for 30 years, over and above deposits not yet explored.

In addition a technical training section is being created at the plant which will prepare training programs, meet the needs of various departments, hold classes for industrial students and supervise and train supervisors, in order to raise skill levels in maintenance, mechanics and electricity. This will be done in coordination with the vocational training institute.

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATE DECREASED—The economic department of the Royal Scientific Society released a detailed study yesterday on the Jordanian economy during 1978. Dr Bassam al-Sakit, director of the economic department, says that this study reviewed development conditions in the primary sectors in order to come up with an objective analysis of facts relating to the economic situation in the Kingdom during the past year. It also contained an analysis and evaluation of the major sectors of the national economy, focusing on the primary indicators of these sectors, setting forth changes that took place in the economic situation during the past year and giving the outlook for the Jordanian economic situation for this year. He added that the study brought out the major changes that took place during the past year, in brief a tangible reduction in the rate of inflation from 15 percent during 1977 to 7 percent in 1978 and the fact that a noticeable saving had been recorded in the balance of payments. This study also showed that there is still rapid development in the industrial sector despite some difficulties that this sector faced and despite the sluggishness in some primary industries, and also that there was a tangible increase in fruit and vegetable production in the agricultural sector. [Text] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 May 79 p 3] 8389

CSO: 4802

NATIONAL MOVEMENT ATTACKS PLAN TO CREATE SECTARIAN 'GHETTOS'

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Jun 79 p 3

[Article: "National Movement: We Will Resist the Plan Which Aims at a Sectarian Ghetto in Our Area"]

[Text] The National Movement has warned that "suspicious plans seek the establishment of a sectarian ghetto in our nationalist areas," alluding to attacks and threats "made by suspicious troops against persons and property on the pretext of spurious adherence to religious principles." The movement announced its firm resolve to "resist these hired instruments," imploring those concerned not to submit to the threats and admonitions.

The executive committee of the Central Political Council of the National and Progressive Forces Parties called a meeting yesterday in which it discussed general conditions, especially those relating to security in the western area, and issued the following statement:

After studying the uninterrupted succession of attacks and threats made against persons and property by suspicious troops on the pretext of spurious adherence to religious principles, which does harm to both the essence and practice of religion, the executive committee of the Central Political Council finds that if these actions increase and are not brought to an immediate and final end, then indulgence will have been shown towards an inseparable component of the destructive plans which known and suspicious intelligence organizations are behind. These organizations aim to create confusion and civil strife in the nationalist areas after these areas have maintained their cohesive nationalist character foremost through all the critical days which have shaken Lebanon in the last few years as a model for a unified Lebanon and for its distinguishing characteristic, the broad national fusion process which has always attracted all Lebanese, especially those who have suffered from the nightmare of a closed, isolationist ghetto.

The aims of the suspicious plan are these:

1. Justification of the isolationist theses concerning pluralism in order to achieve partitioning through the creation of distinctive and contradictory ways of life in Lebanese areas.

2. After a sectarian ghetto has been set up, the suspicious plan seeks to set up a counterpart sectarian ghetto in the nationalist areas, against the will of all our people, our fighters, our parties and our nationalist and religious organizations.

3. After our nationalist areas have been able to serve as a model of a nationalist melting pot through the will of its structures, the fabrication of this isolated condition is now occurring by means of such attacks which provoke assassination and treachery under the cover of darkness.

4. At the same time that the nationalist mobilization is mounting and attracting the widest popular following transcending all sectarian boundaries in its opposition to the Zionist enemy and those who deal with it, the suspicious and conspiratorial plan is attempting to conceal the real purpose of the struggle by inventing another form for the struggle with a sectarian stamp.

The Lebanese National Movement is appealing to our nationalist masses who have been endowed with the consciousness and maturity of distinguished nationalists to decisively resist this suspicious, wicked and sick phenomenon and the organizations which have provoked it, proving again that there is no place in the nationalist areas for anything except one Lebanon nationally fused together by authentic traditions maintained during the gloomiest moments and circumstances—traditions for the sake of which everything both dear and cheap is sacrificed.

The nation is being subjected to Israeli aggression which is taking over its sovereignty, the security of its territory and the life of its citizens, who are being martyred or uprooted from the land. Moreover, the enemy has been able to gain allies from within who have seized some areas for its influence. The enemy is today trying to extend its hand to break your resolve—you who have been the basis of Lebanon's unity, liberation and unification—using this wicked weapon concealed under a false zeal for religion, while religion is devoid of such zeal.

True religion involves fighting for the nation against its enemy. Every effort that distracts us from this fight and ignites civil strife aids the enemies' suspicious plans. Such efforts are condemned, and it is not possible to show tolerance toward them unless we are content to be negligent when it comes to the unity of our people and our land.

The Lebanese National Movement proclaims its firm resolve to resist these hired instruments, and calls all honorable citizens to join in this campaign of resistance to completely eradicate civil strife and defend the national unity. It appeals to all those concerned who are subjected to warnings from this ostracized group, which has a sectarian and terroristic character, not to give in to these warnings but to inform the Lebanese National Movement

about them so that cooperation can be established to put an end to such disdain for the lives, liberties and property of the citizen.

The Lebanese National Movement calls on the official security organizations to carry out their responsibilities in this area with all speed and determination.

8591

CSO: 4802

GRADUATION FOR SSNP MILITIA CELEBRATED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 May 79 p 5

[Article by Sa'id Ma'ala: "Sa'adah: Thanks to These Rifles Lebanon Will Not Sign a Peace Treaty"]

[Text] The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] celebrated the graduation of a second group of fighters in Bavarij yesterday. Attending the ceremony were Party Chairman Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, Chief of Defense Mahmud 'Abd-al-Khaliq and representatives of the Deterrent Force, the National Movement, the National Front and the Palestinian resistance.

Maneuvers were held with live ammunition using heavy artillery, mortars, rockets, mines and heavy machine guns. Mr 'Abd-al-Khaliq gave the course the name "Course of the Martyr Nicola 'Abdallah Sa'adah."

Dr Sa'adah gave a speech in which he said: "You ask how we can train fighters while the climate in Lebanon is moving towards peace. We say that there is a big difference between peace and surrender. These fighters are the ones who will achieve real peace... We prepare for combat because we want to restore to our country its right to peace, and peace is granting the country its right. As long as these rifles and these flags remain in Lebanon, no one will slip into signing a peace treaty in Lebanon."

He added: "They reproach us because we hold a combat training course while our president goes to Damascus tomorrow to meet with the Syrian president. We say that our rifles accompany him to Damascus. Neither Sham'un, nor al-Jumayyil, nor Sadat nor Begin will be able to cleave Lebanon from Syria and our long struggle against the Lebanese regime because isolationism endorsed this regime for its own advantage. Sa'd Haddad would not have been capable of bringing about a petty state were it not for the absolute backing given him by the al-Jumayyil family and Sham'un."

Sa'adah also talked about the measure taken by Mr Walid Jumblat, head of the Socialist Progressive Party, in closing military offices in Beirut. He said: "We are with him in prohibiting armed demonstrations. The odd thing is that Sham'un and Risq undertake to support this measure. Although our areas are

armed they are open to all citizens and exhibit lawfulness in all spheres of activity. But in their areas they preach virtues and practice vice... We will not renounce the connection between national and Arab Lebanon."

8591

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

JIBRIL DISTRUSTS DIALOGUE APPEAL--Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular Front--General Command, expressed his surprise at the statement made by [former] President Kamil Sham'un and "his booby-trapped call for the opening of a dialogue with the Palestinians at this particular time." He expressed his surprise by saying: "We in the Palestinian resistance cannot trust such an appeal from Sham'un nor take it seriously, because Sham'un himself maintains continuous military and political coordination with the Israeli enemy, whether it pertains to the situations in the south, the capital or elsewhere. If Sham'un is earnest in what he says, it is up to him to prove this practically by severing relations with the Israeli enemy and the little spy, Sa'd Haddad. When this happens we can say that the Sham'un appeal is subject to study." He added: "I do not believe he will do that because he is up to his ears in dealings with the enemy. Thus, we received his appeal with the utmost caution because it is expected that the aim of this suspicious appeal is to sow seeds of dissension among the steadfast forces in the Lebanese theater which constitute a steel barrier against which all plans to surrender and Zionize Lebanon will be smashed." [Text] [Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Jun 79 p 4] 8591

GUARDIANS OF THE CEDARS--In a statement issued yesterday, the Guardians of the Cedars announced that they consider the attendance of a Syrian officer representing the Arab Deterrent Force command at the graduation of Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] fighters which took place last Sunday in the village of Bawarij in al-Biq'a Province as a "definite confirmation of the falsity of Damascus' claim that it entered Lebanon to establish peace, prevent partitioning and support the Lebanese authorities." The statement accused the Arab Deterrent Force of being a "cover for the Syrian Army to achieve its ambitions in Lebanon and its aims to occupy our land and our people. The Syrian Army is still siding with implementation of the Palestinian plan aimed at sabotaging all Lebanese stability to achieve imposition of partition and give Palestinians in Lebanon an alternative homeland...The Syrian Army continues to back the Leftists and their supporters, supply them with weapons and assist them in training and educating fighters to insure the perpetuation of Syrian hegemony over Lebanese areas to facilitate realization of the policy of Syrian occupation outside the area appropriated for the Palestinians." [Text] [Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 May 79 p 6] 8591

FREE OFFICERS ISSUE DECLARATION, RESOLUTIONS

Tripoli AL-SHURA in Arabic May 79 pp 124-126

[Article: "Free Officers and National Responsibilities"]

[Text] The convening of the first Free Officers conference on Arab unity, the third goal of al-Fatih's September revolution, marked another historic development in the revolution's course. The al-Fatih September revolution has already taken several steps toward freedom, socialism and unity:

It has rid Libya of all forms of foreign presence, including U.S. and British bases, and expelled all Facist residents;

It has freed its Arab, Libyan citizens, giving them the right to own property, wield power and own arms;

It has made socialism a reality by putting into practice the economic principles expounded in the Green Book;

It has changed the workers' role from that of hired hands to partners;

It has transformed tenants into home owners;

It has realized a producers' revolution, ending all forms of labor exploitation and bondage;

It has given sovereignty to the people in fulfillment of the principle that there is no democracy without popular congresses and no true representative government without the direct participation of the masses.

Despite these accomplishments, however, the revolution never lost sight of its remaining goals. Jerusalem continued to occupy their thinking. The liberation of Palestine continued to haunt them. Arab unity remained their constant dream.

It was never doubted that the Free Officers will persist until they fulfill their national goals. Although they have a string of great victories to their credit, they pause now in true revolutionary fashion to take stock of their accomplishments. They are keenly aware of the enormity of the task

ahead of them and of the responsibility entrusted to them by the masses. This awareness was reflected in an address by one of them, who pledged that the revolutionary struggle toward unity will continue. The officer said: "And just as the Free Officers movement from its inception was conceived and dedicated to the achievement of unity, the goal of Arab unity continues to beckon it today, a bell constantly reminding it that the September revolution's third goal--unity--has not yet been achieved. We are at your disposal; our will is yours until the revolution's dreams for Libya and the Arab world became a reality. We pledge to be with you, one heart, one word. We will remain true in word and deed, regardless of the opposition, which we pledge to silence sooner or later."

Unity is our hope and dream, but it cannot be realized without a determined revolutionary will. Unity is stronger and its roots deeper among the masses than the regional interests of certain reactionaries, who hide behind slogans. The yearning for unity grows stronger from day to day; its roar will ultimately collapse the reactionary regimes seeking regional interests and replace them by a unified Arab nation.

At the opening session of the historic Free Officers Conference, Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi repeated this theme and expressed his optimism about the ultimate victory of Arab unity. He said: "Libya's twin policy of non-alignment and aid to Arab unity supporters everywhere throughout the Arab world will bear fruit. Although much of the movement remains underground, God willing, it will surface sometime. How? Support for the underground unity movement is continuing, and the volcano shall soon erupt here and there."

The final conference declaration not only stressed the need to carry the revolution forward, but exhorted Libya's revolutionaries to work with Arab revolutionaries everywhere. It called for:

1. Liberating Egypt from al-Sadat's rule by--according to the final declaration--continuing contact with Free Officers in the Egyptian armed forces, and by supporting those who wish to join our sacred struggle against agents, reaction, retreat and treason as exemplified by the Egyptian Government, which has sold our Arab cause to the Black House [Reference to White House] and allied itself with international and Zionist colonialism;
2. Cooperation between Free Officers in all reactionary Arab countries and their Libyan counterparts. Specifically, the declaration said: "We call upon Free Officers in all Arab armies to put an end to reactionary governments which hinder Arab unity."
3. Working to liberate Palestine. This was described as the national duty of all Arab revolutionary movements. The declaration asserted that the Free Officers movement heads the list of those who embrace this responsibility, and cited the liberation of Palestine as one of the goals of the September revolution. The declaration said: "The Free Officers pledge to the Arab people to continue the struggle to liberate Palestine and all occupied Arab lands."

The conference served as an embodiment of the national, revolutionary will, led by the Free Officers movement, to liberate the country and its people, to liberate all occupied Arab territories and to achieve pan-Arab unity.

EGYPTIAN PERIODICAL DEPLORES ANTI-ISLAM CAMPAIGN IN SYRIA

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Jun 79 pp 26-27

[Article by Dr 'Abd al-Halim 'uways: "Syrian Ba'th Wages Genocide War Against Islam and Moslems in Syria"]

[Text] It is no longer possible to remain silent about what is happening in Syria. The "Mystical Nusayrism," hidden under the robe of the "Ba'th Arab Socialist Party," has declared a genocide war against every Syrian Moslem adhering to Islam--in form and content--and this applies to both male and female Moslems whose appearance and conduct indicate their adherence to their religion.

This war began since Nusayrism took control of the government in return for a mean price, namely, surrendering the Golan Heights without resistance to Israel and cooperating with certain forces in Lebanon to create a "Nusayrist" state, including Syria and part of Lebanon, in return for a "Maronite" state in the remaining greater part of Lebanon.

In fact, this scheme is very well known to all those who understand the a, b, c's of the plans of Zionism, its supporters and protectors--plans designed to shatter the area into pieces that can be easily swallowed under the pretext of various slogans and under the shadow of contradicting associations.

It is true as well that despite the fact that these schemes are well known, despite the fact that most of them were carried out during the 1967 war and the war in Lebanon and that the remaining plans are now being implemented, not a single one of the Arab leaders--despite the devastating conflicts among them (I mean among the brothers)--has opened his mouth to say something against these plots, as if they have nothing to do with the conflicts or as if they are "above the conflicts."

Despite all this, silence or appeasement is no longer possible now that Nusayrism has declared an open and flagrant war of genocide while silence prevails throughout the Arab world before this massacre whose victims are

the Moslems in Syria. It appears as if what is happening in Syria is of no concern to the other Arabs.

As for our Syrian brothers--God help them--they should be excused because of the odd position they are in. Terrorism has deprived them of all the means of protest or complaint. They even dare not groan in an audible voice!

No Trace of Islam Left in the Curricula

Several years ago and under a prescribed plan, the Nusayrists, hidden behind the front of the so-called "National Ba'th party," have launched a flagrant attack against everything that had something to do with Islam in the school curricula. Even the course that used to be called "Religious Education" has been bolshevized and turned into a course on national socialist Ba'thism.

As for the school books dealing with the Arabic language and humanities, such as grammar, rhetoric and literary analysis, a clear-cut decree was issued calling for eliminating every reference in them to Koranic texts or Proverbs of the Prophet and replacing them by quotations from the speeches of the leaders of the Ba'th party, the works of its intellectuals and verses from the poetry of the renegades, provincials and the enemies of Islam.

Ten-Year Plan for Bolshevizing Education

Syrian officials said: "Our policy toward education is no less vital than our policy toward the army. We should turn education into a Ba'thist education (i.e., Ba'thist Nusayrist) within 10 years."

This was announced by the Nusayrist president Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Assad in his speech on the occasion of Teacher's Day in 1978. Addressing the teachers, he said, "Teachers: all of you are Ba'thists. Any one of you who is not a card-carrying member of the organization is still a Ba'thist in his thinking and conduct."

Following that speech, the flagrant genocide war was declared against Islamic education and all male and female teachers who showed any Islamic tendencies. Tactics and measures of the flagrant war of genocide were put into operation:

Religious institutes were annulled under the pretext of placing them under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

Ba'thist-Nusayrist ideologists were assigned to draw up curricula for the religious institutes in a way making Islam and the Islamic sciences a tool serving the aims of Ba'thism-Nusayrism.

Islamic education courses were turned into courses on Ba'thism, even if some of the names of these courses were maintained. The change was carried

out by educators well known for their anti-Islamism. Consequently, they worked hard to bolshevize, nusayrize and ba'thize the Islamic education books. They exerted intensified efforts to ruin the correct Islamic studies curricula, distort the doctrines of Islam and confine Islam to a set of outdated teachings and sermons that made of Islam something similar to archaic and reactionary theory on morality.

They openly declared that they would cancel the Islamic education course and replace it with the so-called "ethical education."

Commenting on this, a reliable Islamic periodical said, "By this, they are paving the way for introducing the nationalist, secular and socialist concepts and terms into the Islamic education course."

Genocide War

They dared wage the strangest genocide war in the history of the "invasion against Islam." They decided to purge the Syrian education system of any male or female teacher who showed loyalty to Islam.

An initial plan for this purpose was drawn. It called for transferring 1,500 male and female teachers from the Ministry of Education to other jobs in other government agencies, such as the Department of Supplies, the Department of Archeology, the Ministry of Finance and others. Later on, 4,200 teachers were transferred from the Ministry of Education to other jobs. (It is worthwhile to mention that they were all non-Ba'thists.) The transferred teachers were among the most efficient educators. They were the victims of the first attack against Islam. Other attacks will follow, unless those who cherish their faith in the Islamic world (and they are many, if God so wishes) wake from their slumber to confront the Syrian moves, even in the name of the so-called "human rights."

To make matters worse, the Nusayrist-Ba'th party forced the veiled female teachers to do away with their veils. When that order backlashed, the female teachers were transferred to jobs in suspicious and pernicious places. Some were transferred to the so-called "cooperatives" which sell consumer goods. Others were transferred to tourist sites and other places where a Moslem woman feels ashamed to work.

When most of them submitted their resignations, protesting against the offending and prejudicial jobs they were given--jobs that were contradictory to their adherence to their religion--the Ba'th party refused to accept their resignations and threatened them with arrest and detention.

Genocide...and Genocide!

It is one of the oddest kinds of genocide in the history of the persecution of the majority by the minority. The persecution campaign can be summarized as follows:

First: Birth control was spread and encouraged by all means among the (Sunni) Moslems only. The Nusayrists were prevented from practicing birth control. The aim of this planning is obvious!

Secondly: An implied ban is imposed depriving the Moslems who represent 90 percent of the population from residing in Damascus. To enforce this ban, the government makes appropriate housing facilities available for any Nusayrist who leaves his home in the mountainous 'Allawite area to live in Damascus. At the same time, the price of an apartment in Damascus has soared to a quarter of a million Syrian pounds. It is impossible for any Syrian citizen, with the exception of the partisans and the Nusayrists, to secure such a sum of money to buy an apartment. As such, a Syrian can no longer afford to reside in Damascus.

Only the Nusayrists are wealthy and capable of enjoying the blessings and resources of the country!

Immorality Enforced

The Nusayrist-Ba'th ruling party forces the young Syrians to join the Ba'thist organizations, hidden under such front names as "Al-Tala'i'" (Vanguards) and "al-Shabibah" (Youth). Such organizations impose socializing between male and female under various pretexts and arrange trips for the two sexes to distant places where they can mix together away from the supervision of their parents.

Even in junior and senior high schools, this religiously-prohibited coeducation is wide spread. Female teachers are assigned to male schools and vice versa!

Furthermore, the Ba'th party acted in a way contradictory to the so-called "human rights" provided for in the World Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed on 10 December, 1948. In violation of these rights, the party forced male and female students under the age of 10 years to join its vanguard organizations.

Nusayrism Is In Control

Everywhere the sectarian Nusayrism enjoys a dominating position:

- The higher commands of the army are in the hands of the Nusayrists
- Only the Nusayrists control the formations of the army
- The administration of schools is in the hands of the Nusayrists.
- Only the Nusayrists are assigned to the Syrian diplomatic missions abroad.

Businessmen, whose dealings with the government agencies are facilitated and who are granted concessions in imports and exports and enjoy freedom in their commercial dealings, are Nusayrists

The people who became wealthy (suddenly and without any special skills or qualifications) are Nusayrists

The armed men who roam the streets and terrorize people are Nusayrists

The commandos, members of the Special Corps, are controlled by the Nusayrists

The national security machinery is in the hands of the Nusayrists! Is there anything left uncontrolled by the Nusayrists?!

Thinking and History

Even Islamic thinking and history are directed toward serving the interests of the Nusayrist sect.

Take for an example the case of Dhuqan Qarqut, the Syrian intellectual who was granted a master's degree from an Egyptian university for his thesis entitled "National Awareness in Syria." This theorist is leading the campaign to change the Syrian thinking into Druze thinking. In his book "Defense of the Druze" which was promoted by the party in every available way, he poses the big question which is the focal point of many sectarian ideas. He asks: "Until when will we continue to glorify Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (the Righteous)?!." By his question, he sees the necessity of looking into history and intellectualism with a Nusayrist eye, rather than with an unprejudiced Islamic eye!

Moslems Are Called Upon To Rescue Their Brothers in Syria

It is a warning and a call for help we issue loudly:

away from the political polemics which we have nothing to do with;

based on the preachings of Islam itself, rather than any other motivation or in the service of any one of the conflicting political forces in the Arab and Islamic world;

we voice our warning as a gesture of our loyalty to Islam and nothing else:

Your brothers in Syria are the victims of a war of intellectual and ideological genocide. They are the victims of a moral liquidation process, stripping them of their mission in life and their loyalty to their homeland. In the name of God, we call upon every Moslem to do his best to prevent the continuation of kicking out male and female teachers from their schools and persecuting every person who adheres to his religion of Islam. We call upon

you to act to prevent the genocide of the Moslems in Syria and turning the country into a Nusayrist sectarian state. Do not let our brothers in Syria, under the policy of impoverishment and humiliation, be turned into servants and trodden proletarians confronting a dominating minority, on the one hand, and a tyrannic Zionism, on the other hand. The rescue rope is about to be cut. The only hope is in God whose mercy has room for every situation.

6800

CSO: 4802

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE ENTERPRISES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 May 79 p 8

[Article: "Encouragement of Establishment of Industries in Developing Provinces, and the Aiming of Local Manufacturing at Producing Imported Goods"]

[Text] Damascus--A plan of action has been drawn up by the ministries specializing in implementation programs, announced by the ministry, for the growth and development of rural areas, for the distribution of enterprises over the countryside, and the guarantee of complete services for it.

A responsible source stated with regard to the industrial sector that this plan emanates from the necessity to encourage the establishment of industries in the developing provinces, which include the provinces of Dar'a, al-Suwayda', Dayr al-Zawr, al-Raqqa, and al-Hasakah; the withdrawal of industries from overcrowded areas around the large cities, and supporting the private sector in directing productive labor, after the clarification of the boundaries of the scope of work of the public and private sectors, in the industrial field, so that it will not result in a competition between these two sectors.

He said that one of the programs of this plan is to specify lands within large-scale facilities for setting up industrial areas or collectivities from state lands and townships in provincial and regional centers, in order to establish projects on them on behalf of the private sector, with consideration of the protection of agricultural lands and the environment when those lands are allocated.

The plan also includes working on simplifying industrial concession measures for the private sector, and giving it the necessary facilities. It is particularly encouraged to manufacture materials and goods which the region imports, in order to limit importation, and to direct local industry toward the production of imported goods.

He added that this plan also encourages operations of temporary introduction of primary materials, with the goal of manufacturing and re-exporting, as

well as the support and encouragement of exportation, offering support to exporting producers, especially in the area of tricot manufacturing. The draft of a new system has been agreed upon for industrial loans to the private, guild and cooperative sector, as well as the introduction of necessary modifications in the system of industrial payments, with the goal of simplifying the measures, and making it easier to obtain loans for industry, and to equalize the private and guild sectors by balancing the benefits granted to the public sector, i.e., by lowering the interest rate by an average of 1 percent over the private sector in all parts of the region, and also by lowering the interest rate on loans granted to buyers of the private sector by 3 percent on industrial loans, if their goal is to set up industries in the developing provinces, or in regions and rural areas of other provinces.

9397

CSO: 4802

GOVERNMENT AGENCY CRITICIZED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF LAND SEIZED

Owners' Compensation Long Delayed

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 3 May 79 p 6

[Article by Samih Abu Tak: "It Has Been 4 Years Since Their Lands Were Appropriated, and the Agency Has Not Paid Them Compensation"]

[Text] When the state wants to set up some project, it usually resorts to appropriating all the lands and areas that it needs in order to set up its project or installations on them. These areas are generally near cities, and quite often they are fertile lands, utilized for agriculture. After the appropriation, state appraisal committees undertake to set the value of the land, which they determine as they see fit, and generally a clear injustice is done to those citizens whose lands have been appropriated. In spite of all of this, it must be said that the public interest is more important than the private interest, and that some citizens are content with this appraisal, whereas others raise objections. In most cases there is no use in raising objections, and matters remain unchanged.

So after the administrative agency involved in the matter appropriates the lands which it has decided to appropriate, the citizens who are the owners of the lands begin to carry out the land transfer procedures in order to receive their compensation, and the citizen begins his running around in order to accomplish that. He begins his torment and striving for the sake of obtaining the amount of money that was decided upon as being the value of his property, and the matter goes on and on until the citizen feels absolutely exhausted. As we have said, we take it for granted that a government agency may appropriate whatever it considers necessary for the common welfare and set its value at whatever it wishes to, whether it makes the citizen happy or not. The reason is that it is a public authority and a public administrative agency which is appropriating the property. But when a citizen spends years going from one office to another and traveling from the city where his land was appropriated to the capital city where the administrative center is that decides about making the payment--assuming the burdens and hardships of travel, bearing considerable expense because of this, and losing time from work--there is no rationale for this. It is unacceptable that a citizen be put in such a situation.

The motive for writing this article has its source in a complaint submitted by the owners of some lands, in the District of Sinjwan in the Province of Latakia, whose lands were appropriated by the Public Agency for the Implementation of Industrial Projects in order to set up an aluminum plant. An extensive area was appropriated for this purpose, and the land that was appropriated belongs not just to one owner, but to a large group of landowners, some of whom owned only a small portion of it, valued at not more than 2,000 Syrian pounds. The appropriation took place in 1974, and it was decided that the value per square meter of this land, at that time, was 10 Syrian pounds, whereas its value now is more than 100 Syrian pounds. As we said, as long as public welfare is the goal, there is no objection to the assessment, and the state is entitled to decide whatever it considers suitable. So, 4 years ago the appropriation of the lands took place in order to construct the plant mentioned above, and the owners of the lands began engaging in procedures to obtain compensation. But it seems that they have had bad luck, and still have not been able to accomplish this. They say that the appropriation took place and that their lands were relinquished to the Public Agency for the Implementation of Industrial Projects. But when they went to obtain their compensation they were told at the Agency that there were no funds to pay for it, because the aforementioned Agency had already set aside the amount of 500,000 Syrian pounds which had already been distributed to some of the landowners. They were told that there was no money to pay the others that year, the pretext being that the Technical Industries Association had not forwarded to them more than the amount mentioned above. When the landowners consulted the Association about this, the reply was that the Agency had asked for that amount, and that if the Agency had asked for any other amount, it would have been sent to it. The matter thus got tangled up between the Association and the Agency, with the citizens not knowing where to turn to next.

At this point the question should be asked: How can the Agency appropriate the necessary land and assess its value, and yet not ask for the transfer of the necessary amount of money to pay to the owners of the lands which were appropriated? Also, why did the matter remain suspended for 4 whole years, with the citizen not being able to get what he was entitled to, it being known that the Agency had received what it was entitled to? Why can't official procedures be easier than that, in order to spare the citizen this agony which has a tremendous adverse effect upon him?

Perhaps the Public Agency for the Implementation of Industrial Projects has a number of justifications for this, but all of these justifications are, as a result, bad for the interests of the citizen. And this incident is actually only one of dozens of similar such incidents.

Government Official's Response

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 May 79 p 6

[Article by Samih Abu Tak: "When Will the Technical Industries Association Pay for the Lands Appropriated for the Aluminum Plant in the Province of Latakia?"]

[Text] We wrote a previous article in which we talked about the appropriation of lands for the aluminum plant in the Province of Latakia and how the compensation for the value of the appropriated lands still had not been paid even though more than 4 years had gone by since the decision to appropriate the lands. At that time we held the Public Corporation for the Implementation of Industrial Projects responsible for this, in view of the fact that the aforementioned corporation is the administrative agency that appropriated the lands that were earmarked for the construction of the aluminum plant. And the citizens involved believed that it was the administrative agency which was responsible for paying out compensation for the value of the lands. Our purpose in writing about this subject was to prod the agency concerned into solving the citizens' difficulties and paying them compensation for their lands.

And through our interview with the Corporation's general manager, Dr Ahmad Hasan Yusuf, we emerged with a great deal of information about this subject, and we present it as follows:

"It is true that the Public Corporation for the Implementation of Industrial Projects appropriated the lands for the aluminum plant, because the Ministry of Industry requested this in view of the fact that the Corporation at that time was an agency which was subordinate to the Ministry of Industry and not independent. In 1978 the Corporation paid out the amount of 500,000 Syrian pounds which had been forwarded to us by the Technical Industries Association. And for your information, let us tell you that the Corporation is not obliged to pay out any amount of money. It is the Technical Industries Association that is basically responsible for this. The Corporation cannot pay out anything unless the Association transfers the funds to it. The citizens are turning to the Corporation, demanding the payment, but we tell them that the Association is the organization directly involved. Last year the Corporation spent, for this purpose, more than the amount of funds that were transferred to it by the Technical Industries Association."

There Are No Land Appropriation Funds in the Association's Budget

On the basis of the correspondence going on between the Technical Industries Association and the Corporation, the Corporation's director of finance says: "In the utilization plan for 1979 we have provided no funds for the appropriated lands. And on the basis of that, the Corporation is not obliged to pay. This means that citizens who are entitled to it will not be able to obtain compensation this year for their appropriated lands unless, in the Association's budget, a transfer of funds is made from one clause to another in order to cover the value of the lands appropriated for the aluminum plant."

According to Letter No. 1326, dated 1 April 1979, which was sent as confirmation of a previous letter written in the first month of the current year, the Corporation had asked the Association to transfer the rest of the funds for paying the appropriation compensation to the landowners. According to its letter of 30 April 1979, the Association's answer was that the Association's utilization plan for 1979 provided no clause covering the payment of compensation for the lands. At this point one must ask why the Technical Industries Association, for more than 4 years now, has not included a clause concerning compensation for the appropriated lands, knowing that the value of the appropriated lands had been assessed in advance by an assessment committee, one member of which was the director of finance of the Technical Industries Association. In light of that the budget should have included such a clause which would solve many of the difficulties and would spare the citizen—who has exhausted himself for 4 full years, going back and forth between the Corporation and the Association, shouldering upon himself the burdens of travel, travel expenses, and the resulting loss of time on the job because of the trips to Damascus to obtain compensation for his land that was appropriated. Postponing the payment for still another—fifth—year may not be a matter of any importance to the Technical Industries Association, but it needs to be said that this matter is of importance as far as the citizen is concerned, and to whom do we explain the reasons for it? As we said, the payment is not possible this year because the budget did not provide a clause covering it, unless funds are transferred from one clause to another in order to permit the payment. And we do not know whether or not it is possible to do this.

But, as the director of finance of the Public Corporation for the Implementation of Industrial Projects has said, it is possible to do this. . And how we wish it would be done, in the interests of the citizen who has waited for such a long time, and we are awaiting a reply.

And right now, what are the tasks of the Public Corporation for the Implementation of Industrial Projects: Before this organization became an independent public construction firm, it had been an agency subordinate to the Ministry of Industry since 1961, and considered one of the oldest public firms in the country. The general manager says: "It was responsible for implementing the industrial projects of the Ministry of Industry. In the latter part of 1977 a decree was issued, transforming the firm into a public construction firm, on the basis of Law No. 1 for the year 1976."

"The Corporation's job is to implement integral industrial projects. This means preparation of design studies for a project, supplying the equipment, carrying out civil engineering construction and installation work, putting the plant into operation, and handling it over, ready to begin to be utilized, to the authority which will be utilizing it."

"What does the Corporation do now? At the present time the Corporation is responsible for carrying out the largest project in the Middle East, which is the building of the cement plant in Tartus. This project is being carried

out by our staff and our machinery, and production will begin in the second half of 1981. The Corporation also is responsible now for the project concerning the cold storage warehouses, and there are a number of other projects in all the provinces." Concerning the manner in which the Corporation is financed, the general manager says: "The Corporation does not depend on the government for its financing. The salaries are paid, and the machinery is bought, from the profits that we earn. And the Corporation, at the end of every year, deposits 75 percent of its profits in the Public Debt Fund, in accordance with Law No. 1."

The Tartus Cement Plant

This is the plant which caused a lot of commotion when it was decided to build it in the district. Would it be possible for Dr Ahmad /Hasan Yusuf/ to give us some idea about this plant in view of the fact that it is your firm that is the organization responsible for carrying out the project and in view of the fact that you are also technical experts?

As far as the Tartus Cement Plant is concerned, we quote Dr Ahmad /Hasan Yusuf/ "If the purification plants work according to the technical specifications given in the contract, and if the maintenance and operation of the plant take place in accordance with sound technical principles, there is no reason to fear pollution and it will be possible to control it if good purification plants exist."

"It is possible for the firm to completely eliminate pollution if it is given full authority for this purpose. At the present time modern technology has the means to prevent pollution. So there is no need to be afraid of waste that might be produced as a result of plant operation if the conditions of the contract are correctly complied with and if means of advanced technology are employed to eliminate the pollution."

Obtaining the Projects Takes Place Through Bidding

The general manager says: "Our firm enters the competitive bidding which is held by government agencies in order to set up their industrial projects. Our offers are studied, as are the offers of the private sector, and we are evaluated by experts. And we do not get a project unless our specifications are financially and technically very good specifications."

"The firm has expertise in all specializations, and we are really proud of this great expertise. Our firm is considered the only firm in the country that has all such specializations. We have mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, electronics engineers, civil engineers, architects, and chemical engineers. This is a normal situation for our firm, because our specialization is the implementation of integral industrial projects that require all specializations. And we would like to say that when government projects are required to be with firms of the public sector, this means that these firms are given their normal role, and at the same time we save the state

obvious, large amounts of money that would go to the private sector, in addition to the fact that 75 percent of our profits, as a result, go to the government treasury. The firm has very high aspirations, and there is great hope and optimism that, in the future, this firm will be able to undertake the implementation of all of the government's works and projects. This will come true by its asserting its existence and proving its ability to work. And confidence in the public sector should increase within the proper and objective framework."

9468

CSO: 4802

SYRIA

ROAD DETOUR CONSTRUCTED TO AVOID LEBANESE TERRITORY

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 May 79 p 8

[Article: "Temporary Road Detour in Syrian Baqi'a To Avoid Passing Through Lebanese Lands, and To Put an End to Smuggling"]

[Text] Hums--In accordance with the request of Mr Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, president of the Council of Ministers, during his visit last week to the Road Construction Company in Hums, the aforementioned company has taken up work tearing up and constructing a temporary detour in the Syrian Baqi'a region, in order to prevent passage through the Lebanese region, and as a result to put an end to smuggling.

The administration of the company agreed to complete this detour in a 2-month period; therefore the company has taken up the work of constructing the detour from the day following the visit of the president of the Council of Ministers. The permanent detour will be completed in 3 years, at which time its route will pass through mountains and two valleys.

On another subject, a source in the company announced that the volume of works in the company approached 1 billion Syrian lira, and that the company has completed 41 projects, the cost of which reaches 88 million lira. The most important of these are: the autostrad of the detour of the Hamah route; tourist city roads in Latakia; the Tadmar-al-Maswanah road, the international Damascus airport fields; the tractor plant autostrad in Aleppo; the Aleppo-Raqqa road; the Suwayda'-Marmilan road.

The company is presently undertaking 51 projects, at the cost of 844 million Syrian lira, the most important of which is the Hums-Lubidi road.

Of this, it has completed 80 percent of the Qaryatayn-Nasiriyya road, and it is expected that it will be finished in the second half of this year.

The proposed detour is the Tadmar-Dayr al-Zawr road; it is a desert road of the first degree, linking Dayr al-Zawr with Damascus through Tadmar, the Damascus-Dar'a road. The company will carry out the commissioned works in the coming months. Among these are the branch roads in the Latakia Province,

which will be completed in 3 years, at an estimated cost of 200 million lira. In the Hasakah street project, the company has finished the previously-contracted roads, and is presently undertaking construction of the other roads.

The work will begin shortly on the Hazanu-Idlib road, at the cost of 12 million Syrian lira. The company is presently preparing the necessary equipment to begin work.

9397

CSO: 4802

ELEVEN TALABANIISTS REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO SYRIA

Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 17 Jun 79 p 1

[Text] Eleven Talabaniists, who were captured after they were injured during a large clash between 800 Talabaniists and tribesmen in the Cukurca area of Hakkari province last year, have been returned to Syria.

As is known, the armed clash between the Talabaniists, the KDP [Kurdish Democratic Party] and local tribesmen first broke out last May, when the Talabaniists with 800 armed men crossed into Turkey near the Semdinli area of Hakkari. Upward of 2,000 men took part in the clashes and over 100 men were killed. In the end, the Talabani forces were routed. A portion of these forces were taken prisoner by the KDP and sent back to Iraq, while another portion of them fled to Syria. After a second clash in the Cukurca area, security forces took 12 injured Talabaniists into custody. In addition to the 12 injured Talabaniists, 7 corpses were discovered together with a large number of weapons.

All of the Talabaniists taken into custody were Syrian citizens. Of these, a captain named Ibrahim Rauf died at the hospital. As for the others, after having been arrested, they were prosecuted for 3 separate offenses. The offenses consisted of: the murders of 7 people, smuggling arms into Turkey and limiting the freedoms of Turkish villagers. A Syrian national named Hidir Nuri and 10 comrades were transferred from Diyarbakir Hospital to Tokat Penitentiary. Their cases were tried at the Tokat High Criminal Court. During the proceedings, which were not made public, the Talabaniists were acquitted by a jury on the grounds of insufficient evidence. After being held in custody for 8 months, the Talabaniists were released. They had no passports, so in order to prevent their being arrested once again for not having a passport they were returned to Syria on 14 February under gendarme escort. Their cases have been closed.

As is known, following the violent clashes in Hakkari the government claimed that "these incidents had nothing to do with Turkey" and no subsequent statement was issued. Thus, the largest clashes in recent years were covered up.

SYRIA

WATER PROJECTS, SCHOOLS, ROADS FUNDED FOR TARTUS PROVINCE

28 Water Projects

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 May 79 p 8

[Article: "Sums Designated for the Implementation of 28 Water Projects in Tartus, From Which Tens of Villages Will Benefit"]

[Text] Tartus--Mr Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, president of the Council of Ministers, agreed to designate the sum of 130,400,000 liras for the implementation of 28 water projects, roads and new schools in the rural areas of Tartus Province, from which tens of villages will benefit, whose inhabitants number more than 50,000 citizens.

This was reported by Mr 'Ali Zayud, governor of Tartus, after his return from Damascus on a visit which lasted 4 days, during which he studied all of the issues and problems of the province and its needs with the concerned ministries.

He affirmed that the implementation of these new projects, which are not included in the plans and programs set for this year, are very important.

Among the water projects are: the project of West na'mu; Ka'biyyat 'Ammar; Majdalun al-Bahr; Dihbash; Bayt al-Jabal; Says Balfons; the implementation of networks for the irrigation of five villages in the Shamanis water project, and six villages in the Jurat al-Hisan water project; and the irrigation of the villages of Shabubin and Sisaniyya. The cost of these projects is 5,250,000 lira. In the area of schools, there are plans to build schools in the villages of al-Murayqab, Baqiya 'l-Sisaniyya, and Bayt Sultat al-Muruj; an intermediate school in Humur; and a school in Baldat al-Shaykh Badr. The cost of these projects is 750,000 lira. There are also 13 road projects planned, including: the Humisiyya estate; al-'Annazah-Duraykish; the 'Uyun valley; Safita 'l-Mashatta 'l-Shamali; and al-'Adida 'l-Janin in Humur al-Habasha. The cost of these projects is 6.5 million lira. The governor affirmed that the state planning agency agreed to grant the sum of 850,000 lira to 9 of the projects of the Fourth Five-Year Plan for the transportation sector, and the Higher Planning Council will assume responsibility for issuing the required decision.

He indicated that the Arab Syrian Company of Tourism is serious about utilizing the city of Tartus al-Qadima and the island of Arwad for tourism.

65 Schools Constructed

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 May 79 p 8

[Article: "Construction Completed on 65 Schools in Tartus Province"]

[Text] Tartus—Mr Tawfiq 'Arif 'Ali, a member of the executive office of the educational sector in Tartus, announced that the army housing establishment is presently undertaking construction of 65 schools on the secondary, intermediate and elementary levels in the rural areas of the province, the cost of which amounts to 23 million Syrian lira. It will be completed this year, at a time when a branch of the Abniyya Education Bureau is supervising construction of the schools of Shaykh Yunus, Bayt 'Alyan, Buwayda 'l-Suwayqat, and Harisun, at the cost of 1.5 million Syrian lira. They will be complete in the coming months. He indicated that 3 million Syrian lira had been provided in the independent budget of the province for the completion of 20 school projects and public conveniences in rural areas. He mentioned that the Arab-Syrian Construction Company is presently putting finishing touches on the model school in Tartus, and will complete it this year. Its total cost will run to 1.5 million Syrian lira. Mr 'Arif said that the proportion of completion in the teachers' college of Tartus at this time is approximately 30 percent; the college will be completed next year, at a cost exceeding 6 million Syrian lira. The college will accommodate 640 male and female students, one half of whom will be boarders. It contains lecture halls, study rooms and bedrooms, as well as a gymnasium.

It is beneficial to recall that the student population fills the secondary and intermediate schools, and that the province will witness an increase in technical educational establishments in the future.

9397

CSO: 4802

SYRIA

SYRIAN STUDENTS DO WELL UNDER SYRIAN-ROMANIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 79 p 9

[Article by Salim Na'amah: "1,743 Syrian Students Study in 9 Romainian Provinces"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the foundations of bilateral relations between the SAR and the Socialist Republic of Romania have been strengthened as a result of repeated visits between Pres Hafiz al-Asad and Pres Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, and that cultural cooperation between the two countries, which has made considerable progress, is an outcome of these relations. A good indication of this is the number of Syrian students who are currently studying in Romania. As of this year there are 1,743 such students of whom 1,468 are studying on scholarships and the remainder at their own expense.

Some 112 of these students are preparing for doctorates in various sciences, while 548 students are still in their preparatory year. The students are distributed among disciplines as follows:

35.36 percent of this year's total are taking technical and engineering studies.

45.59 percent are studying medicine

3.59 percent are studying agriculture

2.48 percent are studying economics

Of this year's total, 856 students (not counting graduates) passed to the higher class, and only 101 students failed. The grades of those who passed were as follows:

129 students received grades of 8 or 9

562 students received grades of 6 or 7

165 students received a grade of 5

A discussion of Syrian students studying in Romania must take two important matters into consideration:

1. The quality of the students studying there.
2. Those who supervise both Syrian and Romanian students.

The importance of the first matter is indicated by the fact that the Syrian Arab student's seriousness and level of scientific attainment, and consequently his diligence and ability to absorb the latest scientific theories, are already recognized. I heard this fact directly from more than one teacher in Romania. In fact, one of our students was able to surpass his peers, both Arabs and foreigners, during his period of study in Romania. This induced officials at the Ploesti Petrochemical Institute to acquaint Arab and foreign delegations visiting the institute with the research this student performed in the laboratory, and made one of the student's professors want to cooperate with him in the future.

The second matter is strongly linked to the first, and is clearly demonstrated by our embassy's interest in the students and the fact that everything possible is done to help them complete their scientific studies. Naturally, it is the embassy's duty to show interest in these students. But if we take into account the increase in the proportion of Syrian Arab students studying in Romania, the size of the responsibility imposed on the embassy there becomes clear. I heard discussions among the students themselves commending the role played by our ambassador, Walid al-Mu'allim, and the cultural attache, Muhammad al-Fatih, and praising the efforts of the Romanian Ministry of Education, and the official at the ministry responsible for the Syrian students, Mr Ionescu, in caring for the students and keeping up with their affairs both large and small.

Mr Ionescu has all the qualities of an intelligent educator, and has a personality which is well liked among the Syrian students. I met him several times, and every time we talked about our students, he said: "It is my duty--and I am not the only one concerned about the students--I am one of many in the ministry whose duty it is to maintain the ties of friendship between our countries by taking care of these students, who left their people, their relatives and their nation to ascend high up the ladder of scientific achievement. Duty requires that they be encouraged, and that we try to make up for their separation from their native country by insuring that they have suitable opportunities open to them."

One of the most important individuals who knows about our students in Romania is Suzana Gadea, Romania's minister of education and instruction, whom the students refer to as "mother of foreign students." Mrs Gadea's conversation is precise and scientific. She talks in a language of facts and figures--and occasionally, names. Mrs Gadea says: "The success rate among Syrian students is 90 percent, which is a good percentage compared to the attainment rates of other foreign students. The grades received by the Syrian students

are also good, with more than half of the passing students receiving grades between 6 and 7. But I also believe that this percentage can be improved."

The minister adds: "There are some difficulties from the institutes and from the students themselves. We are discussing the matter with the specialized institutes so that we can show greater attention to the students. A number of students have failed, and I think that this is due to the fact that they are not making enough effort in their studying, and they have not attended lectures regularly. For example, one student had 298 recorded absences, another had 152 and a third 100."

The minister feels that one of the main reasons behind some students' poor performance in their studies is the fact that they arrive late in Romania. This happens nearly every year. In addition, some students do not submit themselves to examinations at the appointed times, but ask for them to be delayed until autumn. Herein lies the difficulty, since the student has only one chance before him. If he misses this chance, his academic year is lost.

Therefore, Mrs Gadea asserts: "Beginning this year, all examinations will be at the middle and at the end of the year. Only the failing student will take the autumn examination, not the student who was not submitted himself for examinations in either season."

In view of this, it must be said that apart from the causes and effects whatever they may be, the situation is similar to that in any school: there will inevitably be some students who make mistakes and do not act to the advantage of their studies. The responsibility to straighten them out lies with their teachers, with the members of the educational cadre among whom they live and also with the Romanian branch of the National Union of Syrian Students which participates in the education and awakening process through its various activities. But most important of all, the lessons which the students learn from their outstanding classmates constitute the true standard which must necessarily get them involved in serious, profitable work. For the nation awaits them, side by side with the gifts of the earth and the longings of the people and the children.

8591

CSO: 4802

SYRIA

BRIEFS

FOREIGN PURCHASES OF SYRIAN COTTON--Aleppo--The Movement of Foreign Contacts registered a big leap for Syrian cotton during the past month, in that a number of countries, totaling 19, have entered the cotton market this year, and have concluded purchasing contracts, which now total 107,953 tons of ginned cotton. It is known that in the vanguard of the countries contracted to buy Syrian cotton this year is the Soviet Union, since its purchases totaled 26,000 tons. It is followed by Italy and the People's Republic of China. The brother country, Iraq, has also contracted a transaction, valued at 13,000 tons of Syrian cotton, and Algeria has contracted to buy 11,000 tons. The total amount of exported cotton in the abovementioned period reached 66,000 tons. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 May 79 p 8] 9397

SUMMER CAMP FOR BA'TH VANGUARDS--Damascus--Throughout the coming week, in all provinces of the country, Ba'th Vanguard military camps will begin for the 5th and 6th beginning ranks, and about 360,000 Vanguard men and women soldiers will join them. Comrade Ahmad Abu Musa, vice president of the Ba'th Vanguard Organization, leader of the camps this year, announced: "The army camps will enter a progressive phase this summer, in that the leadership of the organization has completed solid constructions for all camps of the region, and has supplied them with the necessary equipment, and has amply provided them with leadership cadres capable of drilling and training the Vanguard forces. The course of assistants to the leaders of the camps also opened yesterday, which is organized by the leadership of the organization in the central army camp in Zabdani. In Raqqa, a branch of the Ba'th Vanguard Organization adopted the necessary training to open summer courses. The course of preparing students of the teachers' college, both men and women, will begin with a 2-year system; 80 students will participate in it, and the study lasts 1 week, followed by practical application in assisting a Vanguard supervisor. [Text] [Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 May 79 p 7] 9397

CSO: 4802

TUNISIA

CHARGES, AGAINST TWO NEWSPAPERS UPHOLD IN COURT

Charged With Slander

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 79 pp 6, 7, 12

[Article: "AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE in Criminal Court; Six Cases, 5 Hours and Fine of 900 Dinars"]

[Text] The director of AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE had an unprecedented appointment on Wednesday 16 May with the Palace of Justice, after a previous appointment on 15 May with the appellate court in the case of the "Discussion with al-Bub," an article written by a reader. It turned out that we were charged with slandering an official institution (a unit of public order).

On 16 May there were six cases, and it took the sixth criminal department of the court of first instance in Tunis more than 5 hours to reach a verdict in them, from 1300 hours to after 1800 hours.

Although the hearing of the six cases took approximately 5 hours, the lawyers and Hassib Ben Ammar were present in the courtroom at 900 hours and remained until late in the evening. This was due to the fact that the court decided to leave the cases of the two newspapers until after it had heard the 10 other cases on its agenda for that day.

What are these six cases, what was the charge and what were the verdicts?

The First Case: Witnesses to Acts of Torture Are Willing To Appear in Court

The Charge: Slander by Maligning State and Police Authorities

This first case came as a result of an article written by a reader and published by the newspaper DEMOCRATIE in its issue of 26 August 1978 under the title "Torture by a State Organization!" The author of the article and Hassib Ben Ammar, as director of the newspaper, were brought to trial in this case.

Under questioning, Hassib Ben Ammar answered that he stood by the content of the aforementioned article and added that the purpose of publishing it was not to slander anyone, but the newspaper was trying to draw the attention of the competent authorities to verify statements of a number of citizens who were arrested in the aftermath of the events of January 1978 and asserted that they had been subjected to violent torture by the preliminary examiner. All the newspaper did was to ask the executive authority to form a committee to investigate the existence of such practices in our country, in order to uphold provisions of the law for the respect of the inviolability of the Tunisian citizen. The appeal of DEMOCRATIE came as a direct result of Tunisian and foreign press items about the practice of torturing people in our country.

Rachid Idriss, author of the article which is the subject of legal action, answered in the same vein and justified his article with the same reasons and objectives, mentioning that he had been personally subjected to torture.

The Defense:

The speech for the defense focused on the charge of slander, with the assertion that it would be clarified by statements of Hassib Ben Ammar and the arguments he made to the examiner to the effect that the subject of torture is in fact an independent problem, and consequently, discussion of this subject cannot be regarded as slander.

The defense noted that the article against which legal action was taken, was not aimed against any specific person or institution, thus making the charge of slander meaningless in as far as the trial was concerned.

In support of what appeared in the article in question, the defense urged that reports in both Tunisian and foreign newspapers on the subject of torture in Tunisia be examined. He also urged that a report prepared by the Tunisian Human Right League and another report issued by Amnesty International, an organization of unquestionable integrity inasmuch as it has won the Nobel Peace Prize. In the same context, the defense called attention to a statement issued by the National Defense Council on 22 August 1977 about general freedoms in Tunis. The defense also called attention to published statements of the accused in the case of the union members in the Souss criminal court in the Tunisian press and to a report published by Amnesty International in February 1979 on the case of the union members.

The defense continued to enumerate various arguments and evidence concerning torture in our country. He mentioned the statements made by a number of Tunisians about being subjected to violent treatment and torture and the fact that they were willing to appear before the court to specify the acts to which they were subjected and show the marks of the violence that some of them still carried. They were also willing to identify some of their torturers to the court. The defense asked the court to hear evidence from a number of plaintiffs, including Ahmed Ben Othman al-Ridawi, Dalilah Ben Othman, Isma'il al-Shabani, Mohamed Saleh Qays, Mohamed al-Kaylani, Ruhmah al-Hummami and others.

Then the defense noted that the motive for publishing the article under prosecution was the belief that no one can abuse the inviolability of another for any purpose whatever, and that the law prevails over all citizens, no matter what their political affiliation or position in society. Another motive was the fact that the Tunisian constitution which guarantees freedom of the individual precludes such practices.

In addition to the constitution, there is the international agreement having to do with the elimination of all manifestations of racial discrimination which was concluded by the UN in New York on 21 December 1965, ratified by the National Assembly and published in our country as a law. There is also the international agreement concerning civil and political rights which was ratified by the UN General Assembly at its general session on 16 December 1966. This agreement was ratified by the National Assembly in our country and published as a law on 29 November 1968.

After calling attention to various material facts and domestic and international laws against the act of torture, the defense mentioned the punishments set down by the Tunisian criminal court which anyone who abuses another person's inviolability might receive.

Verdict: Plea Will Not Be Heard

Second Case: Where Is Decision on Basis of Which Newspaper AL-RA'Y Was Seized?

Charge: Publication of false reports, maligning the head of state and the government and slandering the regime.

The second case came as the result of a collection of articles published by AL-RA'Y in its issue number 53. The newspaper was seized on 27 December 1978, and after the seizure, it was shut down for 3 months.

The director of the newspaper refuted the various charges made against him, such as publication of false reports, maligning the head of state and the government and slandering the regime.

Once again the director of the newspaper cited what the Tunisian press itself had published and what even the Official Guide of the Republic had published on the subject of depriving certain deputies in the National Assembly of the right to speak. In addition, Hassib Ben Ammar refuted the charges made against him concerning the contents themselves of the articles under prosecution.

In connection with the charge of slandering the regime, the director of the newspaper noted that criticizing a specific policy cannot mean slandering the regime which is pursuing it. He added that there is a difference between the regime and a policy of the regime, since one regime can pursue several policies. An example of this is the fact that the Tunisian regime in the 1960's pursued a policy different from the one it is currently pursuing.

The Defense: Decision To Seize AL-RA'Y Violated the Law

Before discussing the basic issue, the defense called attention to the conditions resulting from the shutdown of AL-RA'Y for a period of 3 months and all the ensuing moral and material damage. In this connection the defense mentioned that the commissioner of the republic is not permitted by law to seize a newspaper unless a case is referred simultaneously to the court hearing the case. In other words, it is not permitted by law to seize a newspaper unless a case is referred simultaneously to the court hearing the case. In other words, it is not permitted to seize any newspaper unless the prosecution of a legal case is underway. In the present case, the commissioner of the republic issued a decision to shut down our newspaper for 3 months, and the director of the newspaper was unable to obtain a copy of this decision, despite his request for it and the appeal which the law allows him to make in such cases. Moreover, the director of the newspaper was unable to obtain a copy of the decision, even when the case was turned over to the investigating magistrate. Naturally, preventing delivery of a copy of the seizure decision to the director of AL-RA'Y was depriving him of his legal rights.

When the defense mentioned this matter, the president of the court brought out a copy of this decision and handed it to the defense lawyer to read. This prompted the latter to ask why the competent authority had refused to hand over such a copy at the time in question. He also asked if that was not the result of certain circumstances such as the fact that the seizure decision was made before prosecution proceedings began and before the case was brought to court.

As for the basic issue, the defense noted that the arraignment was improper, because the arraignment decision did not specify what the false reports were which AL-RA'Y was accused of circulating. At the conclusion of the speech for the defense, the spokesman for the defense added that the case in fact was not an indictment against Hassib Ben Ammar, but an indictment of freedom of opinion and expression.

Verdict: Fine of 300 Dinars

Third Case: Two Versions of One History

Charge: Maligning the Head of State and Members of the Government

This case has to do with an article published on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the death of Dr Mahmud al-Matari, former head of the Neodestourian Party. The article portrayed a picture of the relationship of the two men /al-Matari and the present head of state/ during a certain stage of the history of the nationalist movement, unlike that which certain information organs have tried to draw. This article was published in DEMOCRATIE in its issue of 16 December 1978, and Hassib Ben Ammar was accused of maligning the head of state and members of the government.

The director of the newspaper refuted this charge, stating that authenticating historical events by relying on documents cannot be construed as slandering or maligning anyone at all.

The defense supported this position by linking this case to that of freedom of the press in general.

An important point was brought up in this case. The accuracy of the translation from French into Arabic of the article under prosecution and presented to the court was challenged by Hassib Ben Ammar and the defense. The latter asked if the court would rely on the text of the article according to the translation being challenged, or if it would take into consideration the observations of the defense to the effect that the translation does not correspond with the actual facts.

With regard to an article on a probable reshuffling of ministers, Hassib Ben Ammar answered that praising the qualities of two ministers, and not praising the other ministers, does not mean a stance which is either supportive of or hostile to them.

The Verdict: Fining the Director of Our Newspaper 400 Dinars

The Fourth and Fifth Cases: Confirmed Reports Accused of Being False

The two cases have to do with a report published by DEMOCRATIE in its issues of 2 and 9 September 1978. In short, the report was that the lawyer Professor Mansour al-Shafi who participated in the defense in the case of the trade union members was contacted by two persons claiming that they were officials and asking him to accompany them, but Professor al-Shafi refused their demand, because they did not have a written legal summons.

The report also concerns Khalifah 'Abbid, member of the leadership of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor and a deputy in the National Assembly who was summoned to police stations and asked numerous questions.

The result was that the director of DEMOCRATIE was accused of publishing false reports and abusing both the regime and police authorities.

The task of Hassib Ben Ammar and the defense was quite simple in this case. It was proposed to the court that 'Abbid and al-Shafi be called in to confirm the accuracy or inaccuracy of the published report.

The defense added that DEMOCRATIE was not the only one to object to the news concerning Mansour al-Shafi. The Association of Young Lawyers came out with a petition asking the competent authority to identify the two persons who had contacted him. The defense asserted that this phenomenon was extremely dangerous, because if the two persons were not security agents, it would mean that the acts of unsupervised elements were threatening the freedom and inviolability of citizens.

The defense expressed his amazement that the newspaper would be brought to trial for bringing up this problem in defense of the law itself, while security organs should have been using all their means to expose such persons as these.

Verdict: The Appeal Will Not Be Heard.

Sixth Case: Will There Be or Will There Not Be Freedom of the Press?

The charge is slandering judicial bodies and official institutions.

The reason is the article published by DEMOCRATIE in its issue number 18 under the title, "From One Case to Another."

The director of the newspaper said that the case concerned labor union members, and the newspapers AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE had a clear position with regard to the case, namely the demand that imprisoned union members be released, since if the union members were partly responsible, then others also were partly responsible.

Hassib Ben Ammar asserted that it was not reasonable to refer the case to an appellate court when it was of a political nature and would certainly be felt politically.

He added that the charge of incriminating justice had no basis in truth, because the matter had to do with an article which pointed out the fact that no member of the court can be both a judge and a party in the same case.

The Defense: Let Us Prosecute the Lawyers Who Said the Same Thing as DEMOCRATIE

In this sixth case the defense concentrated his speech at the outset on the necessity of protecting the principle of freedom of the press, a necessary freedom in view of the fantasies which the society has known and in view of the state's ever-expanding role.

The defense said that the press law should not lead to the suppression of freedom of the press. Thus if we intend to apply this law in a restrictive fashion, then no Tunisian newspapers, including the newspapers of the Destourian Socialist Party, would be able to escape the restraints of this law, because no newspaper can avoid violating the press law or guarantee freedom of the press.

In short, is there freedom of the press or not? We are people who want to practice politics in the framework of the law. We don't want to introduce the judiciary in politics. When the Tunisian constitution established freedom of the press, it did that not by change, but on the basis of a political choice made by the constituent assembly which made it because the citizenry fought not only for independence, but also for freedom.

The defense mentioned the circumstances surrounding the trial of union members by the state security court. It was the subject of the message which lead to the present case. He reconfirmed the right of every citizen to express his opinion about this trial, and logic requires that the lawyers who were used in the case of the leadership of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor be prosecuted, because they expressed the same opinions which appeared in the message under prosecution.

The defense concluded his speech by stating that the problem is, "Does the citizen have the right to express his opinion about the practices of those in authority or not?"

He answered this question: "We have scores of young persons sitting in prison because they believe they cannot express their opinions through legal organs and because they have no found the channel through which they can express their opinions."

Verdict: Fine of 200 dinars.

Charges of Slander Refuted

Tunis, AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 79 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Slander"]

[Text] If you say that the year has been difficult, that's slander. You should have said it was easy and comfortable.

If you say that we workers are the victims of a futile policy, that's slander. You should have said that they are enjoying their blessings and freedom.

If you say that the president of the National Assembly has taken away [free] speech, that's slander. You should have said that the deputies have not engaged in any practice of this sort.

If you say that security is in one's heart, not behind machine guns, that's slander. You should have said that security is behind machine guns, not in one's heart!

If you say, "Smoke," that's slander. If you say, "Don't smoke," that's slander. Whether you say, "Smoke" or "Don't smoke," that's slander!

They said:

You slandered the regime, you slandered the head of state, you slandered the National Assembly and the government, and you slandered the army and the police. You published false reports, and you published them through ill will.

We said:

We have slandered neither the regime, nor the head of state, nor the National Assembly, nor the government, nor the army nor the police!

What we published were actual, confirmed reports. We stick by everything we have written in letter and spirit.

We do not ask anyone's pardon. Rather we ask God to pardon all of them and if need be, grant them extenuating circumstances. We ask that He be a responsible listener.

New Press Law Demanded

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 79 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Our Stand on Freedom and Justice"]

[Text] The criminal court heard the six cases and issued sentences. It was an occasion to raise the problem of freedom of opinion and expression in our country once again.

We have often reported on this subject in the columns of this newspaper, since it is one of the fundamental elements of democracy and has been for years one of the basic cornerstones of both our political work and our concept of society. It remains one of our most important demands and a basic principle which we are striving to achieve.

We say this, while we realize full well what awaits us. We know what the hard-liners and those who want to show their muscles can do. AL-RA'Y has been exposed to it, not once in the open, but continuously in an covert manner.

We say this while also realizing that those persons are planning for a definite goal—the next Destourian Socialist Party Congress. Their plan, like all plans which contradict the will of the masses, implicitly requires that they have pure atmosphere, free of everything which might "corrupt" it either completely or partially.

Finally, we say this while realizing that the violence of the reaction of this "faction" might equal the destructive force which it has begun to face from supporters of openness within the regime itself, no matter how different the degree of their support.

Thus we are aware of and fully appreciate these dangers, but we are braving them. This "courage" is not in the category of the "knights' courage," nor is it masochism. It is simply a position and a plan and guide it toward the main street, the source of which is the country's constitution. Our position basically depends upon a deep feeling that we are right and that what the Tunisian continues to demand will not be forfeited.

This belief of ours is reinforced by a second belief of extreme importance, confirming our position. It is that the broad popular masses agree with us in this main demand. Even the party base and the overwhelming majority of the party cadres share our opinion on this subject.

Some people might see a hint of contradiction in this analysis. The truth is that a contradiction actually does exist, and it is the underlying reason for the present crisis in the country.

Nevertheless, we believe that the petrification will end one day and that superior values will ultimately triumph.

Among the most outstanding and most noble values in this society are those of freedom and justice. They go hand in hand. One without the other is meaningless.

At the trial last Wednesday, the defense confirmed, "There is no freedom without justice, and there is no justice without freedom." Perhaps this expression or rationale is the most serious statement made before the court, in front of the judges who represent one of the values. They were in an uncomfortable position, since they were responsible for putting on trial the other value represented by the directors of the newspapers AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE.

This very situation is what causes petrification, because the one value cannot be alienated from the other. In the present case the press law is what has placed the two values in a state of alienation, one from the other.

Yes, the press law is what has put freedom of the press on trial and has continuously exposed it to the vengeance of those who have become petrified.

And then?

We believe that it is the duty of every living conscience, mindful of the country's destiny and the best interests of this destiny, to pronounce judgement on the press law which conflicts with the principles and spirit of the constitution. We challenge the constitutionality of this law and demand that it be abrogated and replaced by another law which respects the country's constitution and confirms the maintenance and protection of freedom of the press, not the contrary, because freedom of the press ultimately means the "withering" of petrification. It also means consideration of the good of the nation before the good of individuals and "little groups."

In the first issue we published after the seizure decision, we said that we would continue the struggle. Today we confirm that statement, confident of the legitimacy of our position and the agreement of public opinion with us. "Act, and God, his prophet and the faithful will see your action." (By the truth of God the Great).

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PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZED, ECONOMIC POLICY DEBATE DEMANDED

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May pp 1, 2

[Article: "In Connection With the Prime Minister's Speech in Monastir: Is It Ignorance, Forgetfulness or What?"]

[Text] No one is denying the prime minister his right to praise his economic policy and the results it is achieving in the various governorates of the republic, especially in Monastir Governorate. However, we have the right to question its usefulness, and citizens have the right to pass judgment for or against it and be better informed about its repercussions on them in their daily lives.

The current disagreement among us has to do with the framework in which the citizen can state his opinion and pass judgment. The framework of the Destourian Socialist Party is a narrow one, and the top, not the base, has the final word. In our opinion the proper framework is the national one which permits all individuals without exception to have their say freely, without restriction, and in which they have a choice of policy and a choice of officials to execute it. It is a framework in which the people can dismiss officials if they go wrong and fail in the policy which they were commissioned to follow.

It is not reasonable, and this is amazing in itself, for someone to think that his plan is the best there has been and the best there is and to deny others the ability to discover what is better for the country and more beneficial for its people. Undoubtedly the prime minister means us, out of all he is aiming at, when he says, "Everyone is entitled to demand that every Tunisian have a certain income, but he must not stop there. He must clarify the method of attaining this. Such talk is either through ignorance or with another design, such as stirring up certain social groups."

He concluded his talk by urging the cadres to continue on the same path, because according to him, nothing else remains but mistakes.

It seems from this talk that the prime minister does not know, and we don't say "ignores," or forgets that for 1 year we at AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE have submitted clear and comprehensive proposals concerning economic policy.

We have demanded a review of the basic planning policy inasmuch as the plan has become a formal framework when it should have a tangible content which commits the state and all concerned parties to development. We have demanded that the state alone exploit natural resources and initiate large strategic projects which are catalysts for other activities and serve to stimulate and improve economic life. This would force the state to stop abandoning its commitments in this domain.

We have submitted proposals on reforming agricultural structures aiming at defining small and large acreages and establishing a plan to encourage the mutual support and extension of services. We have submitted proposals to modernize agriculture, establish structures responsible for lands, reform the agricultural loan policy, and raise production through a contractual link with the food industries. We have also submitted proposals on the organization of state lands and ways of administering them.

We have called for an expansion of the base of economic authority in the organization by reorganizing the capital structure and distribution of profits and changing the structure of operation on bases which provide conditions for harmony among the various parties concerned with the organization's progress and enable the establishment of true peace in society and the encouragement of a spirit of initiative in those capitalists who are bold and capable. We have also submitted proposals to counteract the chaos which reigns in the price system, through reform of the supply and distribution structure and regulations of the price monitoring system.

We have presented many other proposals which in our opinion guarantee to strengthen the national economy and make it capable of holding steadfast in the face of external fluctuations. Also, they guarantee to create enthusiasm among workers to give priority to production, raise productivity, increase profits as much as possible and improve the purchasing power of workers.

This is our opinion. Those with different political orientations have other views and opinions. However, not one proposal which we have submitted has been discussed by the prime minister, members of the government or the official press. Everything issued by the independent nationalists who want to reform conditions in their country is considered to be negative, destructive action, because it is incompatible with the officials' viewpoint and it is not issued within the narrow framework in which they want to limit political activity.

The officials have been self-confident and confident of public support for their policy. Why don't they permit discussion and debate on a national level in public, live on television, for instance? Why do they adhere to their petrified positions?

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PRISON CONDITIONS OF UNION ACTIVISTS DEPLORED

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 79 p 3

[Article: "Union News; 20 Imprisoned Union Members in Extremely Bad Conditions"]

[Text] More than 7 months ago 20 union members were arrested on the charge of publishing the underground newspaper AL-SHA'B. We received a petition from their families to the effect that the union members were suffering from extremely bad conditions in the civil prison in the capital.

Previously they had gone on a hunger strike three times to demand better conditions of imprisonment, but to no avail. What actually are these conditions?

The message states that they are in prison cells with unhealthy conditions. Each cell is no more than 5 meters square. Besides the odor from the toilet in each cell, the prisoners suffer from the cold, humidity, filth, bugs (bedbugs) and lack of fresh air and sunshine.

Also among the poor conditions of imprisonment, according to the message, is the bad food offered prisoners in terms of both quantity and quality.

Some prisoners are even suffering from diseases of the chest, stomach and throat.

One of the bad conditions is isolation. Three prisoners are in solitary confinement, six are in two cells (three and three), and 10 are in one room.

In addition to these harsh conditions, the families of these citizens are permitted to visit them only once per week, for 15 minutes theoretically, but usually for not more than 10 or even 5 minutes, according to the message.

Added to all this is the fact that they receive a physical examination days after they request one, in other words, days after they fall ill.

The message states that the prisoners go out for air 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the afternoon only.

They take a bath only once per week, and have gone for a whole month without a bath. Conditions for bathing are extremely bad. The water is often turned off or turns cold.

Finally, the message notes that those citizens are deprived of reading newspapers and books, with the exception of party newspapers, and they are deprived of watching television, which even prisoners under public law enjoy.

This concerns living conditions in prison.

However, the message included the following demands"

1. Speeding up judicial proceedings.
2. Assembling the prisoners in one room.
3. Extending visiting time, increasing the number of visits and making it possible for families to determine the day of the visit.

Is there someone who will reply?

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BRIEFS

TELEGRAM ON PRISONERS--Hassib Ben Amar sent the following telegram to President Habib Bourguiba, who is staying in France: "We have noted with joy that you have regained your health, judging by the fact that you are pursuing your daily activity and making excursions. At the same time, we think of those who have only a few square meters in prison and are deprived of sunlight. On behalf of the two institutions AL-RA'Y and DEMOCRATIE, we ask your excellency to make the decision which will permit them to return to their homes, and enable the people in their entirety to celebrate the national holiday." [Text] [Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 79 p 1] 7811

LOAN FROM JAPAN--Tokyo, July 4--Japan will extend a yen 8,610 million loan to Tunisia for the implementation of a central cement factory project in that country. Notes concerning the loan were exchanged between Japanese Ambassador Yutaka Tamura and Ismail Khelil, director-general for international cooperation of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, in Tunis Tuesday. A cement factory with annual production capacity of one million tons will be constructed at a site 12 kilometers west of Enfindaville in central Tunisia. The loan will be used for the nonproduction part of the project such as power distribution facilities, repair shops and a parking lot. It will be repayable over 25 years, including a grace period of 7 years, and annual interest rate is 4 percent. This is the second Japanese yen loan to Tunisia following the yen 4 billion extended in 1977 for transport capacity improvement of the Tunisian shipping corporation. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 4 Jul 79 OW]

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REACTION TO IRANIAN OFFICIAL'S VISIT SAID FAVORABLE

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11-17 Jun 79 p 9

[Article by 'Ali Hashim: "Khalkhali's Visit to Dubai and Abu Dhabi: Iranian Revolution Will Not Be exported and Will Focus on Neutralization Instead of Role of Policeman"]

[Excerpt] Until last week, the Arab Gulf was wondering what the Islamic Republic in Iran wants and wondering about this republic's policy in the area.

Ayatollah Khalkhali's visit to Dubai and then to Abu Dhabi carried the answer, even though the visit in itself was a surprise.

Ayatollah Khalkhali, in a press conference he held at the residence of the Iranian ambassador in Abu Dhabi, focused on four points:

1. "Iran is living under complete security and is proceeding with all its citizens behind the great Ayatollah Mawwi Khomeyni.:
2. "The relations with the United States of America are very bad but they are cordial with the American people."(?!)
3. "The relations with the Soviet Union are amicable so far." However, he advised the Soviet Union not to interfere in Iran's affairs.
4. "The sentences issued by the revolutionary courts have been just because they have affected traitors, spies and political criminals. The sentence against the shah and his family is also just because the shah does not need to be tried. What he has committed against Iran and its people and against Islam is well-known."

Came to Ask for Aid

After he had revealed the four points, Iranian sources leaked to AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI the true nature of Ayatollah Khalkhali's visit, saying it is for the following reasons:

1. The visit was at the invitation of the members of the Iranian community in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and, by the way, for holding contacts with the UAE officials.
2. To ask the community's members to help "the barefooted and the naked" among the sons of the mother homeland and to begin building homes for poor Iranians. "However, donations to the Islamic revolution are voluntary and not compulsory."

After quick contacts, Ayatollah Khalkhali visited Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum in Dubai and then proceeded to Abu Dhabi where he was received by the emirate ruler and the UAE president and by the high-ranking state officials at al-Mushrif Palace. It was a debate, and not talks, session, which dealt with Islam and with the need to support the Islamic Republic. The UAE emphasized, through its president, its satisfaction with the Iranian revolution.

The outcome of the meeting was an understanding between the two sides that getting rid of the shah was in the interest of Iran and the area in its entirety, and that the entire area, which is an Islamic area, is proud of its religion and feels that the Iranian revolution is closer to it than the Persian and shahanshahist Iran.

Gulf and Name

Ayatollah Khalkhali surprised Shaykh Zayid [UAE president] in that there is no disagreement over the name of the Gulf "because it is now the Islamic Gulf. It is neither Arab nor Persian because all the countries overlooking the Gulf are Islamic, and because the shah, with his racism, made an issue of the name."

But the dreams and the hopes planted by Ayatollah Khalkhali in the hearts of the Gulf citizens did not live long, because Ebrahim Yazdi, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, and Daryush Foruhar, the minister of labor, asserted immediately upon hearing Khalkhali's statements that "the Gulf will remain Persian" and that no force in the world can change this name!

Dinner and Departure

Khalkhali returned to Dubai on Monday evening. On Tuesday evening, the UAE vice president and the emirate ruler gave banquet in his honor.

In appreciation of the visit, the UAE population and the foreigners living in the UAE were surprised by a decree from the Dubai ruler banning the sale of alcohol in the emirate, restricting alcohol sale to residents of first class hotels only and giving foreigners the right to purchase certain quantities every month in accordance with permits issued by Dubai Municipality in cooperation with the local police.

The decree was a surprise, because the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, had asked 2 years ago that a similar federal decree be applied to the seven emirates of the UAE, and was opposed by Dubai alone at the time because Shaykh Rashid, the practical statesman, said: What can we do with a million foreigners who are accustomed to drinking in their countries and who live among us under harsh natural conditions?

Implementation of the federal decree was stopped until the Dubai ruler decided to implement it in his emirate, as if giving the other emirates the signal to follow his example.

Observers have interpreted this surprise as a "gift" from Dubai to the Islamic revolution in Iran because this revolution has accorded Dubai exclusively the first visit by one of the ayatollahs to the area.

Ayatollah Khalkhali left for Tehran carrying with him Shaykh Rashid's "gift" to the Islamic revolution. Khalkhali had invited the high-ranking officials to visit the revolutionary Iran to see the bars where alcohol has been banned and which have turned into places of worship.

UAE and Revolution

If Ayatollah Khalkhali's visit is a surprise, the good relations between the UAE and the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni have not been surprising to observers.

Since the declaration of the revolution and Ayatollah Khomeyni's move to Paris, the UAE revealed its support for the revolution through its formation media. Dr Sa'id Salman, the UAE ambassador in Paris, visited the imam several times, at times at the request of his government and at others without it.

With this position, the UAE played a courageous role and risked its entire existence, because the shah, who imposed his custodianship on the Gulf, excluding Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait, had occupied three islands belonging to the UAE as soon as the union was declared—namely the island of Abu Musa and the Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb. Had the affairs of the Islamic revolution proceeded in a different direction, the UAE would have paid dearly.

The UAE information kept up with Iran's events from the revolution's viewpoint and not the shah's viewpoint. It was the first state to hasten to offer its congratulations. Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chairman, returned to Beirut from his visit to Tehran by way of Abu Dhabi in order to convey to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan the appreciation he witnessed in Iran on the part of the Iranian revolution for the positions of the UAE toward this revolution. The UAE experiences no sectarian complications and adopts Islam as the official state religion.

The Shi'ites in the UAE are mostly of Iranian and Bahraini extraction and exercise their rites in complete freedom in their Husayniyat [a combination

of mosque and club for religious, cultural and social activities]. They also occupy high positions in the state and engage in commerce.

The UAE which had been living in fear of the shah's ghost feels now that the revolutionary Iran is the guarantee for the traditional friendship and for insuring security and stability in the area.

Ayatollah Khalkhali's visit ended with assertions which the UAE has absorbed, namely:

1. The Islamic revolution in Iran is a domestic Iranian revolution and is not for exportation.
2. The Iranian revolution will actually influence, without intervention, application of the Islamic law in the area, especially in regard to eliminating injustice from the oppressed and crushed.
3. The Gulf, with its Moslem population, will witness a new era of love.
4. Even though the Iranian revolution has abandoned the role of the policeman, it will work to achieve stability, to confront any foreign intervention and to realize intrinsic security for the area by neutralizing it in the face of the two super powers.

[Box on Same Page] Return of Amity Between Dubai and Sharjah

Dubai--The relations between Dubai and Sharjah were the chronic problem inside the UAE because of the competition between the two emirates in building hotels, airports, ports, etc. This led them to a conflict over the borders that almost caused a military confrontation 3 years ago.

In the conflicts within the state, Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah, supported the unionist inclination represented by Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuwayyan, the UAE President and the ruler of Abu Dhabi. Some people interpreted this as the desire on the part of Sharjah ruler to take positions opposed to those of Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, the UAE vice president, who was accused of obstructing the unionist procession.

When Dubai ruler was entrusted with forming the new UAE cabinet, he visited Sharjah and met with its ruler for a full hour. The visit has been considered an indicator that tribal sensitivities in the area have begun to disappear.

Cool Farewell for Iranian Ambassador

Abu Dhabi--The term of duty of Ebrahim (Taymuri), the Iranian ambassador in Abu Dhabi, ended during Ayatollah Sadiq Khalkhali's visit to the emirate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a farewell dinner party in honor of the ambassador. The party was not attended by Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the minister

of state for foreign affairs; by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jurdan, the ministry's undersecretary, or by Fawwaz al-Qudsi, the chief of protocol. It was attended only by a number of Arab ambassadors, including Iraqi Ambassador Muhammad Jasim al-Amin, and three officials of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, each with the rank of secretary.

The cool farewell has been attributed to the belief that Ambassador Taymuri is not one of those "held in favor" in the new Islamic Republic.

Three Islands Will Not Be Returned

Ras al-Khaimah—Before returning to Tehran, Ayatollah Sadiq Khalkhali visited the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaimah, which during the shah's reign lost the two islands of the Greater and the Lesser Tunb.

The visit was amicable, the Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, the ruler, gave a big dinner party in honor of his guest.

However, informed sources have assured AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI that despite Khalkhali's promises, the Iranian Islamic Republic will not return the islands of the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, nor will it return Musa Island to the Emirate of Sharjah. Iran occupied Musa Island in the days of the shah, leasing one half of the island from Sharjah for a period of 99 years on the condition that it give the emirate one half the island's oil production—oil which has already run out.

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